



Short St. Gallery

Byron Brooks

Born 1951
Language Pitjantjatjara
Region Tjuntjuntjara, WA



Biography

Byron was born circa 1951 between Tjajar and Tjintirkara between a significant men's , Wati Kutjara (Two Men) and women's, Kungkara (Seven Sisters) dreaming tracks adjacent to the SA border. Byron was transported to Cundeelee Mission via Kulkapin as a 10-12 year old boy.

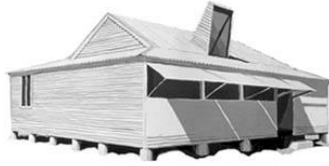
Although Cundeelee was over 500 kilometres from the closest point in the Spinifex homelands, life in Byron's teenage years and entry into manhood would have been quite similar, in a concentrated form, to life in Spinifex. The Cundeelee missionaries (most unusual for those times), did not attempt to erase language and culture. In fact some encouraged and assisted in the logistics around cultural activity and some learnt and became proficient in the language. The Spinifex people lived in moving camps around the mission settlement in country not dissimilar to areas in Spinifex. Traditionally the disparate nomadic family groups could only come together in good seasons for cultural business. Here at Cundeelee these pre-conditions were a constant and the dissemination of Spinifex knowledge and cultural activity thrived.

Although he was not part of the Elders group who orchestrated the return to country when Byron returned to Spinifex in the mid1980s he immersed himself in to all things cultural as if making up for lost time. He started on the Men's native title painting in 1997 and consistently painted thereafter collaboratively and individually. With his thirst for tradition at Cundeelee, Byron managed to infuse within his consciousness the deep knowledge of country, its stories and patterns and to express them in his prolific work.

As a collaborative artist Byron has works in international and Australian collections and was a finalist in the WA Indigenous Art Awards, Perth, W.A, in 2008.

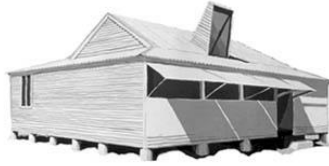
Group Exhibitions

2022 Living Water, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, N.T
2022 Short Street Gallery Broome



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- 2022 Spinifex Arts Project 25 year anniversary show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria
- 2019 Wati: Men from Spinifex - Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW
- 2019 Explosion - Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2018 In Kürze: Pila Nguruku Kapi Walkatjara - Painted Waters of Spinifex Country - Artkelch, Skulpturenpark Wesenberg| Künstler Bei Wu, Wesenberg, Germany
- 2017 Wuste - Meer - Schpfermythen ArtKelch Gallery, The Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum Cologne, Germany
- 2017 Spinifex Arts 20th Anniversary - Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2017 Spinifex Ascendent - Short Street Gallery, Broome, Western Australia.
- 2016 Pila Nguratja - In Spinifex Country - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2016 Rawa Nyinanyi – Unbroken - Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2016 Exposition Spinifex Arts Project - Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Fine Art, Belgium
- 2016 Purungu und Narrupa Sammlung - P. & A. Klein and ArtKelch, Kunstwerk, Germany
- 2015 Spinifex Arts Project 2015 - Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney, NSW
- 2015 Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art - Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
- 2015 Kulunypa- selected small works from the Spinifex Arts Project - Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2015 Wo das Stachelkopfg gras wächst - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
- 2014 Spinifex Artists - Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2014 Tjuntjuntjara Nguratja- Tjuntjuntjara is home - Harvey Art Projects, Sun Valley, Idaho, USA
- 2014 Tjuntjuntjara - recent works from Spinifex Country - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2014 Spinifex Tjukurpa - ReDot Gallery, Singapore
- 2014 Spinifex Arts Project 2014 - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC.
- 2014 Salon des Refuses - Outstation and Paul Johnstone Galleries, Stokes Hill Wharf, Darwin, NT
- 2013 Spinifex Arts Project - ARTKELCH at art Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2013 PRO COMMUNITY – Spinifex Arts Project, Touring exhibition - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, at Staatliches Völkerkundemuseum, Munich, at Fabrik der Künste, Hamburg, at Galerie Gunzoburg, Überlingen, Germany
- 2012 Tupun Nguranguru – People of the Sandhill Country - 45 Downstairs Gallery, Vivien Anderson, Melbourne, VIC
- 2012 Spinifex - People of the Sun and Shadow - John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Perth, WA



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- 2005 Law and Land - Aboriginal Art Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands
2002 Putitja Nguru - Art of the Spinifex People - Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
2001 Flinders Arts Museum, Adelaide, SA
2001 Broken Hill City Regional Art Gallery, Broken Hill, NSW
2001 All About Art - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2000 Pila Nguru - Art and Song of the Spinifex People - Western Australian Museum, Perth, WA

Bibliography

- 2018 ARTKELCH, Robyn Kelch: Spinifex Arts Project, Exhibition catalogue, Freiburg, Germany
2017 ARTKELCH – Robyn Kelch: Wüste – Meer – Schöpfermythen, Exhibition catalogue, Freiburg, Germany
2013 ARTKELCH, Robyn Kelch: Spinifex Arts Project, Exhibition catalogue Pro Community 2013, Freiburg, Germany
2013 Art Gallery of Western Australia, Western Australia Indigenous Art Awards 2008 art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, WA
2012 Rothwell, Nicolas. "Paintings of lifetimes in the desert" The Australian, August 6th 2012
2012 Hacket, J. Forrest, S. Malcolm, C. Cane, S. Carty, J. Lane, C. Cruthers, J. Chadwick, R. Allerton, L. Spinifex: People of the Sun and Shadow (exh. cat) John Curtin Gallery, Perth, WA
2012 Jorgensen, D.J. 2012, No Place Without Other Places: Spinifex Arts Project at fifteen years, ARTLINK: Australian contemporary art quarterly, 32, 2, pp. 86-87
2002 Cane, S. Pila Nguru: The Spinifex People, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, Fremantle, WA

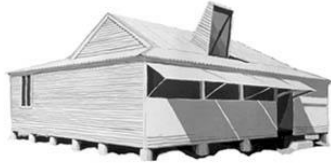
Collections

ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA (MENS COLLABORATIVE)

COLLECTION PRINCE STEFAN OF LIECHTENSTEIN, EMBASSY OF LIECHTENSTEIN IN GERMANY. (MENS COLLABORATE)

GAVAN FOX COLLECTION, ADELAIDE

PRINZ STEFAN VON UND ZU LIECHTENSTEIN, VIENNA, AUSTRIA



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SAMMLUNG ALISON UND PETER W. KLEIN, NUSSDORF, GERMANY

SAMMLUNG PETER DÖHLE SCHIFFFAHRTS-KG, HAMBURG, GERMANY

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM, SEATTLE, USA. (MENS COLLABORATIVE)

THE CORRIGAN COLLECTION, AUSTRALIA (MENS COLLABORATIVE)

THE LEPLEY COLLECTION, PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA. (MENS COLLABORATIVE)