

Short St. Gallery



Ben Ward

Born 1949
Region Kununurra, East Kimberley
Language Miriwoong

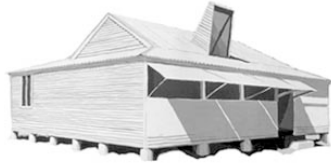
Biography

"I was born at Argyle Downs Station at Behn Creek, hence by name, in 1949. My family all worked on the station and we lived there until I was 10. We walked from Argyle Station to Ivanhoe so I could go to school at the Kimberley Research Station. My parents and extended family gained work at Ivanhoe Station. My stepfather, Jeff Chanarma, taught me everything I know. He took me on as his own son. My real father was a stockman at Argyle Downs Station, he was half Miriwoong and half Afghan and in those days he couldn't claim me as his own."

After Ben left school he worked as a mechanic and it was the shop owner's wife who taught Ben how to paint in watercolour. In 1964 he worked on Carlton Station mustering cattle then later studied nursing to take a position at the Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service.

A great speaker, Ben was strongly involved in land rights and community issues. He worked for the Aboriginal Development Commission and officially opened Waringari Aboriginal Arts in 1987. It wasn't until 2011 that Ben began painting and carving regularly at the centre. His painting practice focuses on depicting his country and memories of when he was a young man mustering cattle, from his own unique perspective. In his latest series, he employs triangular designs of juxtaposed coloured ochre to depict the rivers, mountains and ranges of his country while also commenting on issues that are close to his heart. In 2015 he was the first Indigenous person to win the prestigious John Fries Award for emerging artists and his work is now represented in many important private and public collections.

Ben has held the position as Chairperson for the Board of Directors at Waringari Aboriginal Arts in 2012, 2013, 2015 & 2016.



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Solo Exhibitions

- 2017 Mystery Paintings, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco Perth
2016 Ben Ward, Nerrany-ngeng (mystery) paintings, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco Perth Group Exhibitions
2019 Artist in Residency, Naidoc Week, King & Wood Mallesons, Sydney NSW
2019 Hadley Art Award, Hadley Orient Hotel, Hobart TAS
2019 The Alternative Archive: Our Legacy II, curated by Dora Griffiths, Dawang Gallery, Waringarri Aboriginal Arts, Kununurra WA
2019 Water Talk, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco Perth WA
2018 Hedland Awards, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland WA

2018 Paddington Art Award, Menzies Art Brands, Kensington NSW
2018 Artist in Residency, NAIDOC Week, King & Wood Mallesons, Perth WA
2018 Dream Mine Time, FORM, Perth WA
2017 Hedland Awards, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland WA
2017 Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Eveleigh, Sydney NSW
2016 Salon16, Charles Darwin University, Darwin N.T.
2016 Cossack Art Award, City of Karratha, Cossack, WA
2015 A Jesters Whisper, John Fries Award 2015, UNSW Galleries, UNSW Art and Design, Sydney NSW

2014 Finalist Kimberley Art Prize, Shire of Derby, Derby WA
2013 Traversing Borders. Art from the Kimberley, Queensland University of Technology Art Museum, Brisbane QLD 2013 "Our Living Land" An Exhibition of Leading Artists from the East Kimberley, Salvo Hotel, Shanghai, China
2013 "Our Living Land" An Exhibition of Leading Artists from the East Kimberley, OFOTO ANART Gallery, Shanghai, China 2013 Revealed - Emerging Aboriginal Artists from Western Australia, Gallery Central, Perth WA

Collections

Artbank
Art Gallery Of New South Wales
Art Gallery Of Western Australia, Perth Kerry Stokes Collection
National Gallery Of Australia Collection Parliament House Collection
St John Of God Hospital Murdoch, WA Wesfarmers Collection
Zhongfu Goup Collection

Bibliography

- 2013 "Our Living Land" Exhibition Catalogue Awards
2015 John Fries Award