



Short St. Gallery

Ronnie Allen

Born 1939
Region Docker River NT

Biography

Ronnie Allen is a self-taught artist and a respected elder in the Kaltukatjara (Docker River) community. Ronnie's family's country is Kunapula, just south of Kaltukatjara. He has spent much of his life traveling the Western Desert as a Christian Pentecostal pastor. Ronnie paints several tjukurpa (dreaming) stories including tingari (ceremony), mulga seed, maku (witchetty grub) and tjala (honey ant). He also paints a unique fusion of tjukurpa with Pentecostal imagery, in which he depicts Yamangu and Western people holding gatherings. These gatherings play host to ceremonial dances, religious worship, and moral discussions. As such, Ronnie's work visualises elements of the relationship between Yamangu and Christian belief systems, stemming from the influence of Christian missionaries in recent history. Ronnie draws together these two worlds in a celebration of community and faith. Through Ronnie's work, we can see that the interplay between Yamangu and Christian spirituality has become an indelible aspect of community history and identity.

Group Exhibitions

2020	Rawa Titungarala - Artsource WA
2019	Churchie Art Prize Finalist, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane
2019	Desert Mob 2019
2019	Wintjiri Gallery, Yulara
2019	REVEALED 2019: New & Emerging WA Aboriginal Artists