

Short St. Gallery

John Prince Siddon

Born 1964
Language Group Walmajarri
Region Fitzroy / West Kimberley



John Prince Siddon is the son of Pompey Siddon, who was one of the founding painters at Mangkaja Arts Resource Agency in Fitzroy Crossing W.A in 1991 . A Walmajarri man, he was born in 1964 in Derby, and spent his early years working on cattle stations until injured in a horse-riding accident. He now lives in Fitzroy Crossing and is married with a 16-year-old son. Prince has been painting with Mangkaja since 2009. However due to his wife's chronic illness and his son having special needs, he has had limited time to devote to his art. Working out of his bedroom

"Just like I said, paintings bring memories. Back whatever young or old. When you start to paint, you'll never stop! Many of our old people did most painting of their own on their own land, they love even the animals.

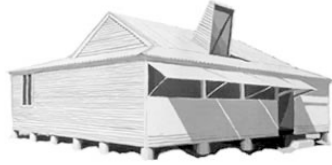
Well to me, I'm doing the same, trying to piece every animal whatever where they from; East, West, South, North- trying to paint them together. Like mix them up, just like a jigsaw. I paint animals who fight each other, hate each other, and sometimes love each other.

You know, back when I was young teen, I loved horse riding. But we were forced to work on cattle stations, as juveniles our punishment was to go to the stations and work. We used to steal back then- cars, booze, smokes, money, you name it. Young or old, when you start you will never stop. These are my words; these paintings are my words.

Landscape, dreamtime, stories, kids' paintings, poetry.....put them all together, its all the same with all my painting it's all mixed up.

I really don't know how to translate it into words but I can by doing art. I'm a shy person, yeah. Also, all my art stories are shy, yeah anyways, life goes on, whatever."

Prince's narrative formula stems from the traditional Kimberley craft of boab nut carving. He is not an overnight success but has worked hard at his craft and is continually exploring new mediums and ways of working his painted surfaces. Moving between 2D and 3D surfaces he renders confronting imagery inspired by national and global issues he sees on television, his own story and desert iconography and the Narrangkarni (Dreamtime) Finally the hard work is paying off with Prince attaining some major career achievements. Selected as a regular finalist in the prestigious Telstra NATSIAA since 2018 and highly commended in the King Wood and Mallesons Art Prize 2018.



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February 2020 saw John Prince Siddon commissioned for his first major solo show by the Perth International Festival with "All Mixed Up". A survey of works that demonstrated Prince's adeptness for pushing mediums on multiple surfaces and rendering imagery that reflects a unique take on today's national political and social issues. SMH Art Critic John McDonald named it "the festival standout exhibition."

"Prince's works are incredibly detailed and often contain rich layers of symbolic imagery. In the work, Mix It All Up, Prince uses a map of this Nation's to depict several pivotal scenes in the nation's history. Upon closer inspection, the work references colonisation and immigration and their effects on native flora, fauna and Aboriginal communities. Other works in the exhibition look at Indigenous land management, global warming, renewal and regeneration of bush and even brutality and violet pub culture." Fremantle Art Centre Perth Festival Media Release

Solo Exhibitions

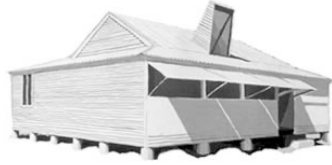
- 2020 Hatching Time, Chapman and Bailey, VIC
- 2020 All Mixed Up - Perth International Festival , Fremantle Art Centre WA
- 2018 Hunting Season, Chapman Gallery VIC

Group Exhibitions

- 2021 Remember Them – Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2020 Sydney Contemporary 2020, Sydney Contemporary Presents
- 2020 Creative Growth Artists, Outsider Art Fair NYC
- 2019 Meeting Places Mangkaja and Creative Growth, Oakland, CA
- 2019 Parranga -Hot Dry Season, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2019 Unbranded, La Trobe Institute, Bendigo, VIC
- 2019 Desert River Sea, Portraits of the Kimberley, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, WA
- 2017 When the Sky Fell, PIAF, WA
- 2017 Bunbury Biennale, Bunbury, WA
- 2017 Sharks and Shamans, PSAS Gallery, Perth, WA
- 2016 Short St Gallery 2015 Revealed, Broome, WA
- 2015 New Frontiers, Linden Art Gallery, Melbourne, VIC

Art Prizes

- 2021 Fremantle Print Award Runner Up
- 2021 TELSTRA NATSIAA Finalist



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2019	TELSTRA NATSIAA Finalist
2018	Port Hedland Art Prize
2018	King Wood and Mallesons Highly Commended
2018	Telstra NATSIAA
2015	Western Australia Indigenous Art Award

Collections

Art Gallery of Western Australia
Art Gallery of South Australia
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