



Short St. Gallery

Sonia Kurarra

Born 1952
Language Walmajarri
Region Fitzroy / West Kimberley



Biography

Sonia Kurarra grew up in the river country at Yungngora (Nookanbah). She used to help the kindergarten teacher with teaching art. They used to take the children out to the Sandy Billabong and teach them how to paint and dance. There is a ngarrangkarni [Dreamtime] snake that lives in the billabong. His name is Nangurra.

Sonia began painting at Mangkaja in the early 1990's working mostly on paper. Since 2008, Sonia has been working predominately on canvas and her practice has become more consistent. She has exhibited in numerous group shows and had an overwhelming response to her first solo show in 2009.

Sonia paints the billabong country along the stretch of the Fitzroy River that runs directly behind the community. After the flood waters recede, there are billabongs that hold a plentiful supply of parika [barramundi], kurlumajarti [catfish], and bream. She paints gapi [fish], parmarr [rocks] where the fish is cooked, ngurti [coolamon] and a karli [boomerang].

Sonia paints these images over and over as though they are etched into her psyche; works that are linear representations in monotoes and others that are layers lathered on with wild and confident brushstrokes. These contemporary compositions display her outstanding understanding of colour.

Solo Exhibitions

2022	Martuwarra, Sonia Kurarra Exhibition, Short St Gallery, Broome
2022	Sonia Kurarra: Portals of Love and Loss, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, Perth, WA
2016	SONIA Hanging Valley, QVC, Melbourne VIC
2016	Pinakarriluny Mamalunya Ngalimpakura Artists, ReDot Gallery, Singapore
2014	Sonia Kurarra ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
2014	Sonia Kurarra Gabrielle Pizzi Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2013	Sonia Kurarra Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW
2012/13	Sonia Kurarra FORM Gallery, Perth, WA



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2012 Sonia Kurarra Gabrielle Pizzi Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2011 A Sonia Kurarra Exhibition, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2009 Sonia Kurarra, Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, WA
2009 Sonia Kurarra, Gallery Gondwana, Sydney, NSW

Group Exhibitions

2019 Colours Of My Country, Everywhen Artspace, VIC
2018 Wynne Prize Finalist, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
2017 Mangkaja Artist - Tanarnti, Art Gallery of South Australia, SA
2017 Mangkaja Waters, Short St Gallery, Broome WA
2016 PINAKARRILUNY MARNALUNYA NGALIMPAKURA ARTISTS JARLU
PALU WANTINYA, ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
2016 Gimme Shelter - A Survey Show from the Artists of Fitzroy Valley, Short
St Gallery, Broome, WA
2015 Bankwest Art Prize Perth, WA
2015 Taranhti 'Works of Significance' Tandanya, Adelaide, SA
2015 Salon de Refuse Darwin, NT
2014 Bankwest Art Prize Bank West Gallery, Perth, WA
2014 Country to Coast; Colours of the Kimberley, Aboriginal Art Museum -
Utrecht. Curated by Georges Petitjean
2013 Austrian and Torres Strait Islander Award, MGNT, Darwin, NT
2012 Mangkaja Works on Paper, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2010 White, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2009 Sharing Difference on Common Ground, Holmes a Court Gallery, Perth,
WA
2009 Shalom Gamarada, Caspary Conference Centre, University of NSW
2009 East Meets West, Gallery Gondwana, Sydney, NSW
2009 Senior Artists from Fitzroy Crossing, Suzanne O'Donell Gallery, Brisbane,
QLD
2009 Mangkaja Survey Show, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2009 Emerging And Re-emerging, Outstantion, Darwin, NT
2009 Margaret River meets Fitzroy Crossing, Turnbridge Gallery, Margaret
River, WA
2008 Bendi Lango, Indigenous Scholarship Fund, Sydney & Fireworks Gallery,
Brisbane, QLD
2008 Mangkaja Artists WA, Randell Lane Fine Art, Melbourne, VIC
2008 Women on Country, Suzanne O'Donell Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
2008 Divas of The Desert, Gallery Gondwana, Sydney, NSW
2008 Mamintu Mapamana, ReDot Gallery, Singapore
2008 Wet n' Wild, Artkeich, Freiburg, Germany
2007 Bendi Lango, the Indigenous Scholarship Fund, Sydney, NSW



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2007 Women Artists of Fitzroy Crossing, Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT
2003 Water and Food, Cullity Gallery, University of WA

Collections

National Gallery of Victoria
The Art Gallery of WA
Art Gallery NSW
The Lepley Collection, Perth
Kerry Stokes
Holmes a Court Collection
Brocard - Estrangin Collection
The Art Gallery of NSW
The Lepley Collection
Geraldton Regional Art Gallery
Murdoch University Art Collection
Westfarmers Collection of Australian Art
St John of God Murdoch Hospital Collection, Perth
Peter & Agnes Cooke Collection
Bertrand Estrangin Collection

Awards

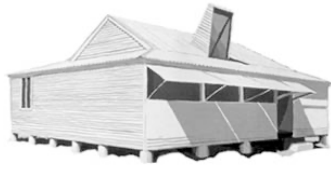
2019 36th Telstra NATSIAA Award Finalist, Darwin, NT
2018 Hadley's Art Prize Finalist, Hobart, Tas
2018 35th Telstra NATSIAA Award Finalist, Darwin, NT
2018 Wynne Art Prize Finalist, Sydney, NSW
2016 Finalist - Port Headland Art awards
2015 Finalist - Bankwest Art Prize
2015 Overall Winner - Kimberley Art Prize
2012 Winner Most Outstanding Work - Hedland Art Award
2010 Winner of Best Indigenous work - WA Art Awards
2010 Finalist in the Western Australian Indigenous Art Award, Art Gallery of WA

Public Art

2010 Fitzroy Crossing Swimming Pool

Publications

2019 Desert River Sea AGWA Catalogue
2017 Arts Backbone, Vol 16 Issue 2 & Vol 17 Issue 1, August 2017



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2014	Arts Backbone, Vol 14 Issue 1, August 2014
2012	Exhibition Catalogue Tandanya SA/ Mangkaja Arts Resource Agency, Wirinyiya Ngarangngarag Birra Ngamoo Ngamoo
2009	Kimberley Aboriginal Artists, Sharing Difference on Common Ground
2003	Exhibition Catalogue, Cullity Gallery UWA Perth/ Mangkaja Arts Resource Agency Martuwarra and Jila, Jumu, Jiwari and Wirruja