

# EVERYWHEN ART

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

### **Peggy Griffiths**



Birth date: 01/07/1950

Birth place: Newry Station

Language: Miriwoong

Peggy Griffiths arts practice reflects her strong commitment to her Miriwoong culture. Her elegant imagery resonates with references to cultural performance of which she is a renowned dancer. The winding of waterways are the sinuous and graceful body movements of a dancer; the outlining dotting reflects a performer's body painting. Her works document the traditional country of her mother and grandfather and her recent works capture the movement of wind through the spinifex country which for the artist is evidence that the spirit of culture is alive.

Born on Newry Station to Dinah Dingle and Frank Moore, Peggy lived and learned about her family and bush life. "I grew up on Newry Station and learnt my culture from the old people. I saw my old people being taken away from the camp with chains around their necks and I was hidden once when Welfare came so that they would not take me away. I learned to dance all the traditional dances and I have taught all my children and grandchildren these dances. I went to school at the Kimberley Research School and later at Beagle Bay Mission before I got married at 16 to my promised husband Alan Griffiths. We have been together ever since." Peggy began working with Waringarri Aboriginal Arts in 1985, carving and painting boab nuts and boomerangs. She progressed to painting on canvas and working with limited edition prints. She is the first indigenous artist to win the prestigious Fremantle Print Award. Committed to keeping the stories of her grandfather, Charlie Mailman, alive and maintaining her connection to culture Peggy and her husband Alan were often found painting side by side. They were also key performers and teachers of traditional dance for their community. Today Peggy is a highly respected senior artist at Waringarri Aboriginal Arts, teaching other artists as well as contributing to leadership of Waringarri Aboriginal Arts in a Director role. Peggy has 5 children, 27 grandchildren and a growing number of great grandchildren.

"What is important to me is to carry on my grandfather and my mother's stories. It is important to show my younger generation what I have learned about our stories and our culture. When I paint my mind has an idea and I do that to show people how I see things."

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### Solo Exhibitions

2011 Peggy Griffiths. Seva Frangos Art, Perth WA

2008 West meets East - Peggy Griffiths. Seva Frangos Art, Perth WA

2005 Dreaming the Spinifex. Seva Frangos Art @ Span Galleries, Melbourne VIC

### Group Exhibitions

2022 Open Borders - a Creative Grid exhibition series, Dawang Gallery, Waringarri Aboriginal Arts, Kununurra WA

2022 earth:Country-from the ground to the sky, curated by Lisa Waup, Ceramics Triennial, Tagentyere Artists, Alice Springs NT

2021 The Natural World APW Gallery, Melbourne VIC

2021 Collective Ground, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA

2021 The Alternative Archive, John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Bentley WA

2021 Pinpii, First Nations Fashion Design, National Museum of Australia, Canberra ACT

2020 John Stringer Prize, John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Bentley WA

2020 Pinpii, First Nations Fashion Design, Bendigo Art Gallery VIC

2019 The art of healing: Australian Indigenous traditional healing practice, The Berlin Museum of Medical History of the Charité

2019 TARNANTHI 2019, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA

2019 The Alternative Archive: Our Legacy II, curated by Dora Griffiths, Dawang Gallery, Waringarri Arts, Kununurra WA

2019 The art of healing: Australian Indigenous traditional healing practice, King's College, London

2019 Desert River Sea: Portraits of the Kimberley, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA

2019 Water Talk, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco Perth WA

2018 The Australian Landscape, Biennale of Australian Art, Ballarat, VIC

2018 Counter Forces: Fire and Water, Peggy and Jan Griffiths, The Cross Art Projects, Kings Cross, Sydney NSW

2018 The Place Holds the Key: Female Artists from Waringarri Arts, JGM ART Limited, London UK

2018 The Art of Healing: Australian Indigenous Bush Medicine, Medical History Museum, University of Melbourne, Melbourne VIC

2017 The Hadley Art Award, Hadley Orient Hotel, Hobart TAS

2017 Yirrb: Together, Peggy and Jan Griffiths, JamFactory, Tarnanthi Festival, Adelaide SA

2016 2016 Community Invitation Art Award, City of Joondalup, Lakeside Shopping City, Joondalup WA

2016 Birrgamibging Merndam - Things Made on Paper. Turnbridge Gallery, Perth WA

2016 Salon16, Charles Darwin University, Darwin NT

2015 Art Stage Singapore. Mossenson Galleries, Singapore

2014 Belle Arti Prize. Chapman and Bailey, Melbourne VIC

2014 In the Saddle, On the Wall. Australia-wide Travelling Exhibition of Kimberley Aboriginal Artists

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. OFOTO ANART Gallery, Shanghai China

2013 The 2013 Sulman Prize. Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney NSW

2013 The Calleen Art Award. Cowra Regional Art Gallery. NSW

2012 Sharing Difference on Common Ground. Geraldton Regional Art Gallery, Geraldton

2012 Sharing Difference on Common Ground. Bunbury Regional Art Galleries, Bunbury

2012 Sharing Difference on Common Ground. The Cannery Arts Centre, Esperance

2011 Sharing Difference on Common Ground. Alcoa Mandurah Art Gallery, Mandurah

2010 Sharing Difference on Common Ground 2. CCAE, Darwin NT

2010 Small Presents Big Presence - 8 Artists 100 Artworks. Seva Frangos Art, Perth WA

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2009 Sharing Difference on Common Ground. Holmes A Court Gallery, Perth WA  
2009 First and Second Generation Artists from Waringarri Aboriginal Arts and Warmun Art Centre. Seva Frangos Art, Perth WA  
2009 Alan & Peggy Griffiths. Short Street Gallery, Broome WA  
2009 Best of the Best. Framed Gallery, Darwin NT  
2008 Kimberley Ink. Northern Editions, Darwin NT  
2008 Kimberley Ink and Ochre. Wollongong University, NSW  
2008 Celebration. Seva Frangos Art, Perth WA  
2006 Belonging, Dancing, Walking. Seva Frangos Art @ Span Galleries, Melbourne VIC  
2005 Joondalup Invitation Art Award 2015. City of Joondalup, WA  
2005 When Waringarri Came to Town. Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane QLD  
2004 Kimberley Focus - Alan and Peggy Griffiths Perth International Arts Festival Perth WA  
2004 Waringarri 3 Women. Framed Gallery, Darwin NT  
2003 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award. Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin NT  
2003 East Kimberley Art. Short St Gallery, Broome WA  
2002 Heyson Prize. Adelaide, SA  
2002 Warrgebarenkoo. Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth WA  
2002 Love Your Work - 30 Year Exhibition. Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth WA  
2002 Kimberley Ochre. Red Rock Art, Cullen Bay NT  
2001 Groundwork. Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth WA  
2000 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award. Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin NT  
1999 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award. Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin NT  
1999 East Kimberley Art Award, Kununurra WA  
1997 East Kimberley Art Award, Kununurra WA  
1995 Fremantle Print Award Perth WA

## Collections

ARTBANK AUSTRALIA  
AUSTRALIAN EQUITY - KERRY STOKES COLLECTION  
CHURCH GALLERY ART ANGELS  
CITY OF SOUTH PERTH COLLECTION WA  
EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY  
FREMANTLE ARTS COLLECTION  
GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
HOLMES A COURT COLLECTION PERTH WA  
KIMBERLEY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION COLLECTION  
KLUGE RUHE ABORIGINALART COLLECTION VIRGINIA USA  
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA  
OCHRE HEALTH CENTRE - BUSH MEDECINE WALL  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE COLLECTION CANBERRA ACT  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE COLLECTION PERTH WA  
ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL COLLECTION  
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY COLLECTION SYDNEY NSW  
UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG COLLECTION  
WESFARMERS COLLECTION  
ZHONGFU GROUP COLLECTION  
AIATSIS Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies Collection

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES, CANBERRA ACT  
BENDIGO ART GALLERY

### **Bibliography**

2008 "Walking Dancing Belonging" Documentary - Mitch Torres Original Pitjas  
2009 "Sharing Difference on Common Ground" Exhibition Catalogue  
2012 "A Working Life from Station to Studio" Documentary - Beth Neate ABC Open  
2013 "Our Living Land" Exhibition Catalogue  
2015 Day Break, information brochure on Peggy Griffiths, Waringarri Aboriginal Arts  
2019 Peggy Griffiths Madij, Quietly Strong and Political, written by Glenn Iseger-Pilkington, pp 66-67, TARNANTHI 2019 exhibition catalogue  
2104 In the Saddle, On the Wall, Kimberley Aboriginal Artists, exhibition catalogue  
2011 ABC OPEN "Im an Artist; I come from the Bush" <http://open.abc.net.au/projects>  
2018 The Art of Healing: Australian Indigenous Bush Medicine, Medical History Museum, University of Melbourne, exhibition catalogue  
2017 Hadley's Art Prize Hobart 2017, p 25, exhibition catalogue

### **Awards**

2020 Cultural Adornment and Wearable Art Award - National Indigenous Fashion Awards,  
2016 Fellowship, Department of Culture and the Arts, WA  
2014 Kimberley Art Award  
1995 Fremantle Print Award

### **Commissions**

2020 King & Wood Mallesons, Melbourne  
2019 TARNANTHI 2019, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide  
2018 Biennale of Australian Art, Ballarat, VIC  
2013 Kununurra Courthouse, Kununurra WA