

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Kittey Ngyalgarri Malarvie



Birth date: 1942
Birth place: Brockman, WA
Language: Jaru

'I was born at the gold mine - Brockman near Halls Creek. I grew up at the Ord River Station between Mistake Creek and Spring Creek. I travelled to Kununurra with my family in the early 1970s where I first learnt boab carving and artefact making with my mother and father. We used to sell to tourists to make money. My dad was teaching us and we were selling in the street in Kununurra and then through the first Waringarri. We would go out on weekends looking for boab nuts to carve and sell. It was a hard time but a good time. These days I prefer to paint and make prints.'

Recently focusing on painting practice, Kittey reveals layers of meaning and story in rich ochre paintings that connect to her traditional desert country south west of Kununurra. Layers of circle motifs interpret the transition of the seasons and a land that is flooded and dry by turns leaving behind the patterned ground of "luga" cracked mud.

Malarvie's Milkwater series depicts a meditation on the multifaceted play of wind and light across a remarkable place of black soil and water the colour of milk. Painting primarily in ochres of pinks, black, greys and milky whites, the artist translates the language of her country into the gestures and utterances of international abstraction.

Solo Exhibitions

2018 Before and After: Kittey Malarvie, Galerie Zadra, NSW & Luxembourg
2017 Milkwater and Luga, JGM Art, London United Kingdom
2015 Ngaba. RAFT Art Space, Alice Springs NT
2013 Kittey Malarvie. Mossenson Galleries, Melbourne, VIC

Group Exhibitions

2023 Kimerley Ochres, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2019 The art of healing: Australian Indigenous traditional healing practice, The Berlin Museum of Medical History of the Charite, Berlin, Germany
2019 The art of healing: Australian Indigenous traditional healing practice, King's College, London UK
2019 The Alternative Archive: Our Legacy II, curated by Dora Griffiths, Dawang Gallery, Waringarri Aboriginal Arts, Kununurra WA
2019 Water Talk, Mossenson Galleries, Perth WA
2018 This Place Holds the Key: Women artists from Waringarri Arts, JGM Art, London UK

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2018 Sunshine Coast Art Prize, Caloundra Regional Gallery, Sunshine Coast, QLD
2018 The Art of Healing, Australian Indigenous Bush Medicine, Medical History Museum, University of Melbourne, VIC
2017 Earth, Wind + Fire, Griffin Gallery, London, United Kingdom
2017 Earth Matters, FORM, Perth WA
2017 Desert Stars, Vandel Gallery, Redfern NSW
2016 Living Waters, The Sordello & Missana Collection - Taba Naba, Oceanographic Museum of Monaco
2015 City of Albany Art Prize, Albany Town Hall, Albany WA
2015 Sydney Contemporary 2015, Mossenson Galleries Booth, Carriageworks, Sydney NSW
2015 Salon15, Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin NT
2015 Cossack Art Awards 2015, City of Karratha, Karratha WA
2015 Art Stage Singapore, Mossenson Galleries, Marina Bay Convention Centre, Singapore
2014 Informing. Kittey Malarvie and Mary Taylor, Suzanne OConnell Gallery, Brisbane QLD
2014 Gerloong. Kittey Malarvie, Judy Mengil and Agnes Armstrong, Mossenson Galleries Perth WA
2014 Wood and Water - New Prints from Waringarri Arts. Northern Editions, Charles Darwin University, Darwin NT
2013 Traversing Borders - Art from the Kimberley. Queensland University of Technology Art Museum, Brisbane QLD
2013 Conversations & Connection. Kittey Malarvie & Karen Mills, The Cross Art Projects, Kings Cross, NSW
2013 The Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery, NSW
2013 The 2013 Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of NSW
2013 Our Living Land - An Exhibition of Leading Artists from the East Kimberley. OFOTO ANART Gallery, Shanghai, China
2012 Colourists of Mirriwoong Country. Tali Gallery, Rozelle, NSW
2012 John Fries Memorial Art Prize Exhibition
2012 Our Living Land - An Exhibition of Leading Artists from the East Kimberley. Salvo Hotel, Shanghai, China
2012 Songlines - A Coe-ee Christmas. Coe-ee Gallery, Bondi Beach, NSW
2012 Hedland Art Awards Exhibition
2009 Ochre Works. Gecko Gallery

Themes

Bush Medicine
Traditional Country - Sturt Creek

Collections

ART GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
KERRY STOKES COLLECTION, WESTERN AUSTRALIA
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA
WESFARMERS COLLECTION
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART RENO NEVADA USA
SORDELLO MISSANA COLLECTION, CAP D'ANTIBES FRANCE
ZHONGFU GROUP COLLECTION

Bibliography

2013 "Our Living Land" Exhibition Catalogue

Awards

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2015 Highly Commended - 2015 City of Albany Art Prize, Albany WA

2014 Finalist - Hedland Art Awards, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland WA

2014 Finalist - Kimberley Art Award, Shire of Derby, WA

2012 Finalist - John Fries Memorial Prize, Gaffa Galleries, Sydney

2012 Finalist - Hedland Art Awards, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland WA