

EVERYWHEN ART ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Alison Munti Riley



Birth date: 1975

Birth place: Ernabella, SA

Language: Pitjantjatjara

Alison Riley was born c 1975 and is a leading mid generation artist of the APY Lands. She was born at grew up at Pukatja (Ernabella) and lived there until 1990 when her family moved to Amata, another community in the APY Lands. She learned to paint and make batik at school at Ernabella and then with Ernabella Arts and continued her artistic career from the mid 2000s at Tjala Arts while living at Amata.

Her work developed in fluency and vitality as she developed her already well honed artistic skills while working with Tjala Arts and became noted for its glowing colours and impressive design, quickly becoming highly sought after when shown in leading galleries around Australia. Around 2013 she returned to her birth place of Ernabella where she continues to paint with Ernabella Arts. Established in 1948, Ernabella is the oldest art centre in Australia and is well known for representing the work of painters, ceramicists, weavers and batik makers of top quality.

For the last several years Alison has chosen as her subject matter for many of her paintings, the country that she remembers so well as a child in its "olden days" - the lush state it was in before the invasion of the renowned buffle grass which has spread throughout much of Australia's interior, overtaking native grasses and leading to the vast reduction in native fauna and other flora as the result.

Occasionally she will include subtle depictions of animals such as the perentie lizard (one of the main dreaming stories of her Pitjantjatjara people) in her work to reinforce the interconnectedness of creation stories, their lands, the plants and the wildlife. As such, her paintings of this subject form a gentle environmental commentary while simultaneously representing an inherent dreaming stories. Combined with the fine aesthetic for which her work is noted, this narrative gives her work a unique resonance and depth.

In 2012 Alison was a finalist in the leading Aboriginal art award, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award and she won the People's Choice award of that award the same year. Her work has been included regularly in the annual Desert Mob exhibition of work by art centres in Alice Springs and been singled out for praise by reviewers of that exhibition. Her work is included in the collections of the Aft Gallery of South Australia and Queensland Art Gallery and is in the collections of a number of leading private collectors around Australia.

Exhibitions

2023 The Summer Show, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

2021 Winter Salon, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

2021 Summer Collecōr's Show, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

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2021 Flying Colours, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
2020 Always Was, Always Will Be, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2020 I Know My Country, Artitja Gallery, South Fremantle, WA
2019 The Colour Purple, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2018 Bush Christmas, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
2018 Hold Our Connection To Country Strong For Malatja-Malatja (Future Generations), Aboriginal Signature, Brussels, Belgium
2017 Spirited – Kurunitja, Short Street, Broome, WA
2017 From Nature, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2017 Inuntjii – Regeneration, Aboriginal Signature, Brussels, Belgium
2017 Relative Colours, Aboriginal Contemporary, Sydney, NSW
2016 Nganampa Kililpil: Our Stars, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre
2016 Inheritance, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2016 Nganampa Kililpi Kuwartija Tjuta Pakani: Our Rising Stars, Hazelhurst Regional Community Gallery, NSW
2016 Point of difference - Desert to the Sea, Artitja Fine Art, Fremantle, WA
2016 Inheritance, Salt Contemporary, Queenscliff, VIC
2016 Spring Salon + Art Parade, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2015 Tjukurpa Kunpu / Strong Culture: HOLIDAY SHOW, Harvey Art Projects, USA
2014 Desert Mob 2014, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
2014 Pilanypa, Harvey Art Projects, Idaho USA
2014 Eastern APY Lands: ArtKelch, Touring Freiburg, Munich, Hamburg and Bodensee, Germany
2014 Little Bit Long Way, Everywhen Artspace at Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Gallery, Woodleigh School, Langwarrin South, VIC
2013 Tjukurpa Nganampa Kunpu Kanyintjaku: Keeping Our Stories Strong, Harvey Art Projects, Idaho USA
2013 Putitja (From Spinifex Country), Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney NSW
2012 Tjungu Kutju-tu- Together As One, Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2012 Tjala Arts New Works, Marshall Arts, Adelaide, SA
2012 Tjala Arts New Works, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
2012 Punu Ngura - From the Trees, RAFT Artspace, Alice Springs, NT
2012 Ngura ngura munu malaku ngura kutu - From home and returning home Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
2012 Kunpu munu ninti pilulka - Nyangatja anangu tjuta ku minyma ku way. Strong and Wise - This is the way of Anangu Women, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
2011 Western APY Lands, Art Kelch, Germany
2011 Tjala Arts- Women, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
2011 Tjala Arts New Work, Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2011 Tjala and Kaltjiti, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
2011 Nganampa Kambatjanka Uungutja - Behind Our Canvas, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
2011 I Hold My Fathers Story; I Hold My Mothers Story, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, NT
2011 Desert Mob, Araluen Arts, Alice Springs, NT
2010 Tjukurpa Kunpu Nganana Kanyini Pulka - Our Stories we Hold Strong Outstation Galley, Darwin, NT
2010 Tjala Arts Ala Patintjaku- Tjala Arts Closing the Gap, Marshall Arts, Adelaide, SA
2010 Alwarawara- Side by Side, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
2009 2009 Tjala Women - New Work, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
2009 New Work Tjala Arts, Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
2009 APY Langs Group Exhibition, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
2009 Anangu Backyard, Adelaide Festival Centre, SA
2008 Tjala Arts – Art Images, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, SA
2008 Our Mob, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, SA

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Collections

ARTBANK
MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Awards

2011 Shortlist for 28th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
2011 Peoples Choice Award Winner Telstra Prize