

EVERYWHEN ART ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Rupert Jack



Birth date: 1951

Birth place: Mimili, SA

Language: Pitjantjatjara

"Jack's enigmatic pots use the clay surface as the palimpsest upon which to place his unique take on the traditional stories and legends from his community at Ernabella." (Glenn Barkley, 2016)

"I was born in Mimili in 1951. I was still a little baby when I moved to Kenmore with my father and mother. My father worked for white-fellas digging wells and anything else. I stayed in Kenmore until I was a man. Then I moved to Ernabella for marriage. I have been a priest for over 20 years. I spent a long time travelling around, everywhere, Western Australia, Northern Territory, working for the church. Talking and singing, Inma. I still know traditional Tjukurpa. These are good stories for Anangu. They show you how to look after your people." (Rupert Jack)

Rupert Jack is renowned for his striking hand-built forms that speak of his country, law and faith. His work depicts the maku (witchetty grub), tjala (honey ants), ili (bush fig), kalu kalu (bush seed that is ground into a flour to make a kind of damper and also Rupert's father's name) and ngata (bush berry) dreaming, as well as biblical stories of Moses and Abraham.

Informed by his knowledge of both traditional stories and the bible his work often draws connections between the two. Interestingly he employs the same visual language and iconography to depict both themes. In 2016 Rupert was featured in the Australian Biennale of Ceramics, curated by Glenn Barkley. In the catalogue Barkley described Rupert's work as celebrating "clays talismanic potential."

Solo Exhibitions

2020 Rupert Jack: Solo, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC

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Group Exhibitions

- 2021** Flying Colours, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2020** Cultural Connections: the gift of story, Artitja Fine Art, South Fremantle, WA
- 2020** Tarnarhi Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art: Open Hands, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
- 2020** Spring Salon Art, Artitja Fine Art, York, WA
- 2020** L'uomo - Masters of Ceramics, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2020** Ernabella Arts: About place, Artitja Fine Art, South Fremantle, WA
- 2020** Flying Colours, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2019** Desert Mob 2019, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2019** Desert Colour featuring Ernabella ceramics, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2019** Berder. Gaba. Urrknga. Wantja., Nishi Gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2019** Anangu uwankara tjunguringkula pukulpa nyinama | Anangu happily sitting and working together, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2019** Desert Mob 2019, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2019** Desert Colour featuring Ernabella ceramics, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2018** Desert Mob 2018, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2018** Weapons for the Soldier, Hazlehurst Regional Gallery, NSW
- 2017** Nyuyuntjaku - Keeping the fire alive | New paintings & ceramics by the artists of Ernabella Arts, Harvey Arts, USA
- 2017** In These Hands: Mara Nyangangka, Sturt Gallery, Mittagong NSW
- 2017** Desert Mob 2017, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2017** Spirited – Kurunitja, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2017** Ngura Kutjupa, Walytja Kutju: Different communities, one family, Tangentyere Artists, Alice Springs, NT
- 2017** Clay Stories: Indigenous ceramics from remote Australia - Sabbia Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2017** Artists of the APY Lands: 2017, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2017** NATSIAA, MAGNT, Darwin, NT
- 2017** Ngura Kutjupa, Walytja Kutju: Different communities, one family, Tangentyere Artists, Alice Springs, NT
- 2017** Clay Stories: Indigenous ceramics from remote Australia, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2017** Artists of the APY Lands: 2017, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2016** Nganampa Kililpi Kuwartija Tjuta pakani: Our Rising Stars - Hazelhurst Regional Community Gallery, NSW
- 2016** Nganampa Kililpil: Our Stars - Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre
- 2016** Desert Mob - Araluen Arts Centre
- 2016** Paluru tjukurpa pulka kanyilpai: He keeps our stories safe, raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
- 2016** Art from the APY Lands, Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
- 2016** Australian Ceramics Biennale: OVERUNDERSIDEWAYS DOWN, Manly Art Gallery & Museum
- 2015** Tjukurpa Kunpu / Strong Culture: HOLIDAY SHOW 2015-2016, Harvey Art Projects, USA
- 2015** Desert Mob, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2015** Wati tjuta-ku Tjukurpa kunpu ngaranyi – All the men have strong stories, always there, raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
- 2015** Yangupala Tjuta Waakarinyi (Many Young People Working), Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW
- 2015** Paysages Aborigènes incarnés de l'APY land (Incarnated Aboriginal landscape from the APY lands), Aboriginal Signature, Brussels
- 2015** Colours of Nature: Australian contemporary art, Shinsegae gallery, Korea
- 2014** Tjulpirpa wiya - Clay!, raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
- 2014** Desert Mob 2014, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2014** Nganana Kulilpai Nganampa Tjukurpa, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2014** Warkarintja: Fifteen Years, Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW
- 2013** Ernabella Ceramics, Raft ArtSpace, Alice Springs NT

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

2013 Desert Mob 2013, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT

2013 ReGeneration: established & emerging talents of Indigenous Art, McCulloch & McCulloch, Shoreham, VIC

2013 Putitja: From Spinifex Country, Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney NSW

2013 APY Survey Exhibition, Outstation Gallery, Darwin NT

2012 Desert Mob 2012, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT

2012 Uwankara Kurunpa Kutju-Tjara, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC

2012 Kapi Ukalinganyi, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney NSW

2011 Ernabella Undiscovered, Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River WA

2011 Nganana Ngura-ku Ninti, Nganana Ngura Kanyini (We know our land, we keep our Land), raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT

2011 Ngura Kutju, Tjukurpa Pulkatjara, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA

2010 A Watiku Exhibition, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, NT

Collections

Artbank

National Museum of Australia

Awards

2017 NATSIAA, MAGNT, Darwin, NT