

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Derek Jungarrayi Thompson



Birth date: 1976

Language: Pitjantjatjara

Derek Jungarrayi Thompson is the maternal grandson of Papunya Tula Artist, Makinti Napanangka.

He first came to work at Ernabella Arts over April 2011, during the first men-only ceramic workshop. Everyone was surprised by Derek's drawing on clay and he explained that he draws 'all the time, at home.' Derek is also an avid hunter. The translation of his drawings of the Pukatja landscape and animal life onto ceramics is unique and has received instant interest from collectors and curators.

In 2012 Derek was selected to be a finalist in the Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award. He also undertook a residency at the Ceramic Workshop of the Australian National University, where he did pottery and printmaking. In 2013 Thompson's work 'Ngintaka Kutjara' was highly commended in the Muswellbrook Art Prize and acquired by Muswellbrook Regional Gallery. Since then his collaborative works with Ngunytjima Carroll have been selected for the NATSIAAs (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards), the Sunshine Coast Art Prize and the City of Hobart Art Prize. Ngunytjima throws tall pots which Derek draws on, using the sgraffito technique.

Thompson and Tjimpuna Williams were awarded a New Work grant by the Australia Council for the Arts and in May 2013 undertook a big pot workshop in Jingdezhen, China. This work was exhibited in March 2014 at Sydney's Sabbia Gallery. In 2015 he is exhibited with Sabbia Gallery in Sydney and Canberra, as part of the Australian Ceramics Triennale.

He has been a key contributing artist in Ernabella's annual Watiku (men's) ceramic exhibition at Raft Artspace, Alice Springs. In 2016 he was included in the Sabbia 'Ceramics Masters' exhibition. From 2017 his work is touring regional Australia as part of the major exhibition 'Clay Stories: Indigenous ceramics from remote Australia'. He also presented new work alongside Pepai Jangala Carroll at the Art Gallery of South Australia in Tarnanthi | Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art.

In 2017 Derek's work was exhibited at Harvey Arts in the USA in Nyuyuntjaku - Keeping the fire alive | New paintings and ceramics by the artists of Ernabella Arts and in 2018 his work was exhibited several times, including in Something Blue at the Sabbia Gallery in Sydney.

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Derek also undertook a ceramics residency at JamFactory, Adelaide alongside three other Indigenous male potters.

Exhibitions

2018 Sydney Contemporary - Sabbia Gallery at Carriageworks
2018 Weapons for the Soldier - Hazlehurst Regional Gallery
2018 WILD: Flora and fauna in Australian Art - Hawkesbury Regional Gallery, NSW
2018 Something Blue - Sabbia Gallery
2017 Nyuyuntjaku - Keeping the fire alive | New paintings and ceramics by the artists of Ernabella Arts - Harvey Arts, USA
2017 In These Hands: Mara Nyangangka - Sturt Gallery, Mittagong NSW
2017 Mark and Memory - TARNANTHI: Festival of contemporary of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA
2017 Little Creatures - Big Country - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
2017 Clay Stories: Indigenous ceramics from remote Australia - Sabbia Gallery, Sydney NSW
2016 Nganampa Kilipil: Our Stars - Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre
2016 Inheritance - Salt Contemporary, Queenscliff, VIC
2016 Paluru tjukurpa pulka kanyilpai: He keeps our stories safe - Raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
2016 Abundance - The Australian landscape in ceramics - Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
2015 Wati tjuta-ku Tjukurpa kunpu ngaranyi – All the men have strong stories, always there - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
2015 Kuruntu mukuringkula kulira palyantja (Stories straight from the heart) - Short Street Gallery, Broome
2015 Yangupala Tjuta Waakarinyi (Many Young People Working) - Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW
2014 Ngura Kutjupa, Tjukurpa Kutju (Different Country, Same Story) - ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
2014 Fragrant Lands – Exhibition of Chinese and Australian Indigenous Art - Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Centre, Shanghai China
2014 Tjulpirpa wiya - Clay! - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
2014 Fragrant Lands – Exhibition of Chinese and Australian Indigenous Art - Tandanya, Adelaide SA
2014 Right Now. In support of Artist Resale Royalty - Boomalli Gallery, Leichardt NSW
2014 Tjungu Warkarintja: Fifteen Years - Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW
2013 Derek Thompson and Ngunyjtjima Carroll - Nomad Gallery, Darwin NT
2013 Sunshine Coast Art Prize 2013 - Noosa Regional Gallery, Sunshine Coast QLD
2013 Ernabella Men, New Ceramics - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
2013 Ochres and Barks: Contemporary Indigenous Art of the Land - Salt Contemporary Art, Queenscliff VIC
2013 A Study of the Figurative in Desert Painting - Short St Gallery, Broome WA
2013 Putitja: From the Bush - Strathnairn Arts, Canberra ACT
2013 Dickie Minyintiri, Pantjiti Lionel, Derek Thompson - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
2013 42nd Muswellbrook Art Prize - Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, Muswellbrook, NSW
2013 City of Hobart Art Prize - Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart TAS
2013 Desert Mob 2013 - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
2013 NATSIAAs - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin WAGroup Exhibitions
2013 Putitja: From Spinifex Country - Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney NSW
2012 Desert Mob 2012 - Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT
2012 Gold Coast International Ceramic Art Award - Gold Coast City Gallery, Surfers Paradise QLD
2012 Wanampi, Ngintaka and other epic stories - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs NT
2012 Desert Colours - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs NT

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

2012 Kapi Ukalinganyi - Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney NSW

2012 Ngayuku Ngura, Ngayuku Tjukurpa - South Australian Museum, Adelaide SA

2011 We know our land, we keep our land - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT

Dreaming

Wanampi (Watersnake)

Themes

Anumara (Caterpillar)

Hunting

Putitja (bush) and mai putitja (bush food) tjulpu (birds)

Wanampi

Wati Ngintaka (Lizard Man)

Awards

New Work Grant, ATSIAB, Australia Council for the Arts

2013 Highly Commended, NATSIAA Telstra Awards, Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory, Darwin

2013 Highly Commended, 42nd Muswellbrook Art Prize

Collections

Muswellbrook Regional Art Gallery, NSW, 2013

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT, 2013

The ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences Artworks and Antiquities Collection, Canberra, ACT, 2014

National Museum of Australia, Canberra ACT, 2014

Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, QLD, 2014

Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, NSW, 2014 University of Wollongong, NSW, 2014