

# EVERYWHEN ART

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

### **Ben Galmirri Ward**



Birth date: 01/01/1949

Language: Miriwoong

“I was born at Argyle Downs Station at Behn Creek, hence by name, in 1949. My family all worked on the station and we lived there until I was 10. We walked from Argyle Station to Ivanhoe so I could go to school at the Kimberley Research Station. My parents and extended family gained work at Ivanhoe Station. My stepfather, Jeff Chanarma, taught me everything I know. He took me on as his own son. My real father was a stockman at Argyle Downs Station, he was half Miriwoong and half Afghan and in those days he couldn't claim me as his own.”

After Ben left school he worked as a mechanic and it was the shop owner's wife who taught Ben how to paint in watercolour. In 1964 he worked on Carlton Station mustering cattle then later studied nursing to take a position at the Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service.

A great speaker, Ben was strongly involved in land rights and community issues. He worked for the Aboriginal Development Commission and officially opened Waringarri Aboriginal Arts in 1987. It wasn't until 2011 that Ben began painting and carving regularly at the centre. His painting practice focuses on depicting his country and memories of when he was a young man mustering cattle, from his own unique perspective. In his latest series, he employs triangular designs of juxtaposed coloured ochre to depict the rivers, mountains and ranges of his country while also commenting on issues that are close to his heart. In 2015 he was the first Indigenous person to win the prestigious John Fries Award for emerging artists and his work is now represented in many important private and public collections.

Ben has held the position as Chairperson for the Board of Directors at Waringarri Aboriginal Arts in 2012, 2013, 2015 & 2016.

#### **Solo Exhibitions**

2017 Mystery Paintings, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco Perth

2016 Ben Ward, Nerrany-ngeng (mystery) paintings, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco Perth

#### **Group Exhibitions**

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2020 Summer Collector's Show 2020, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC  
2019 Artist in Residency, Naidoc Week, King & Wood Mallesons, Sydney NSW  
2019 Hadley Art Award, Hadley Orient Hotel, Hobart TAS  
2019 Water Talk, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco Perth WA  
2018 Hedland Awards, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland WA  
2018 Paddington Art Award, Menzies Art Brands, Kensington NSW  
2018 Artist in Residency, NAIDOC Week, King & Wood Mallesons, Perth WA  
2018 Dream Mine Time, FORM, Perth WA  
2017 Hedland Awards, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland WA  
2017 Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Eveleigh, Sydney NSW  
2016 Salon16, Charles Darwin University, Darwin N.T.  
2016 Cossack Art Award, City of Karratha, Cossack, WA  
2015 A Jesters Whisper, John Fries Award 2015, UNSW Galleries, UNSW Art and Design, Sydney NSW  
2014 Finalist Kimberley Art Prize, Shire of Derby, Derby WA  
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, Salvo Hotel, Shanghai, China  
2013 "Our Living Land" An Exhibition of Leading Artists from the East Kimberley, OFOTO ANART Gallery, Shanghai, China  
2013 Revealed - Emerging Aboriginal Artists from Western Australia, Gallery Central, Perth WA

### Collections

ARTBANK  
ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
ART GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH KERRY STOKES COLLECTION  
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA COLLECTION PARLIAMENT HOUSE COLLECTION  
ST JOHN OF GOD HOSPITAL MURDOCH, WA WESFARMERS COLLECTION  
ZHONGFU GOUP COLLECTION

### Bibliography

2013 "Our Living Land" Exhibition Catalogue

### Awards

2015 John Fries Award