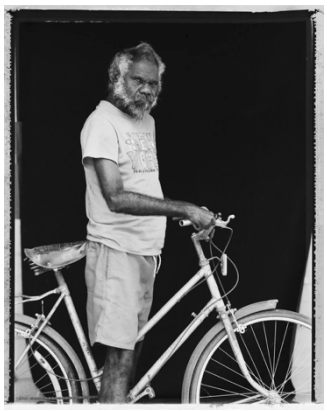
EVERYWHEN
ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Alfonso Puautjimi

Born: 1969
Community: Wurrumiyanga – NT
Language: Tiwi
Dance: Tayamini / Dingo
Skin: Warnarringa / Sun



Alphonso Puautjimi with Joy's bicycle, image by Tobias Titz

Alfonso Puautjimi is a widely exhibited major artist well known for his natural ochre works on paper and canvas. Known as Hardy in Wurrumiyanga, he has been painting with the Ngaruwanajirri group since 1997. The themes of his paintings are drawn from his culture and environment. Images of Tutini (pukumani poles), figures and birds as still life groupings of carvings as seen in the art centre and his imaginative versions of the local landscape including plants, animals and trees, boats,
planes and cars are most frequently seen as well as abstract patterns based on Tiwi ceremonial body painting, known as jilamara.
Alfonso applies natural ochres on to paper, canvas and stringbark. With bold brush strokes and generous paint application he applies black outlines over broad areas of colour, finishing with another layer of colour. The resulting art is dynamic with an earthy tactile texture.
Alfonso has been a continuous presence at the Ngaruwanajirri Art Centre for over two decades and has exhibited extensively since 2002 including solo exhibitions in NSW and Victoria.
Alfonso's work is held in public and private collections including the Charles Darwin University Art Collection, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, the Art Gallery of South Australia, Newcastle University Art Collection NSW and the Lam Collection, University of San
Antonio, USA.
Alfonso was a finalist in the 2024 Telstra NATSIAA.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS
2024 Alfonso Puautjimi: Bicycles, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
2019 Alfonso, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
2015 Alfonso Puautjimi: Tiwi Arts, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
2006 Alfonso Puautjimi Recent Works, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne

GROUP EXHIBITIONS
2026 Minga yuwankui/Ancient body markings, Cross Art Projects, Sydney
2026 Ngawa Ngirramini [Our Stories], Short St Gallery, Broome
2026 Offcuts 2026, Qubit, Darwin
2025 An exhibition of recent small bark paintings from Ngaruwanajirri with Alpine Puautjimi, Jane M Tipuamantumirri, Alexandrina Kantilla, Marie Y Tipumantumirri, Ken Wayne Kantilla, Gordon Pupangamirri, Ngaruwanajirri mintawunga jilamara aningani [Ngaruwanajirri

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Bark] with works on paper by Lorna Kantilla, Lillian Kerinaiua, Alfonso Puautjimi, John Martin Tipuamantumirri, E. Munkanome, Jane Margaret Tipuamantumirri, and tutini poles by 4 Ngaruwanajirri carvers, Too Deadly: Ten Years of Tarnanthi, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
2025 Tiwi Ningani (Tiwi Today), Outstation Gallery, Tactile Arts, Darwin
2025 Bush Car, Short Steet Gallery, Broome
2024 Telstra NATSIAA (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Art Award), Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
2023 Works from Ngaruwanajirri Past and Present, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
2022 Ochres from Tiwi, A collection of natural ochre works on paper from NgaruwanajirriInc,Jilamara and MunupiTananthi, Festival AGSA Adelaide, SA
2020 TIWI, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
2020 Alfonso Puautjimi, Lorna Kantilla, Jane Tipuamantumirri and Alexandrina Kantilla,
Short St Gallery, Broome
2019 Pupuni Jilamara Nginingwula, Double Tree Hilton, Darwin
2018 Nginingawula Awirankini Waki, Double Tree Hilton, Darwin
2017 Yirringinkiri Pwoja, Double Tree Hilton, Darwin
2016 Ngawila Jilamara, Double Tree Hilton, Darwin
2015 Alfonso Puautjimi: Tiwi Artist (+ works by Jane Tipuamantumirri and Estelle Munkanome), Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
2013 Alfonso & Jane, Nomad Art, Darwin
2013 Stable Ground, In conjunction with Good Strong Powerful, ArtBack NT exhibition, Chan Contemporary Art Space, Darwin
2011 Ngaruwanajirri : helping one another, Charles Darwin University Art Gallery, Darwin
2011 Good, Strong & Powerful, ArtBack NT exhibition, touring Australia from 2011-2013
2010 Christmas Show, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs
2010 No Words Necessary, Suzanne O`Connell Gallery, Brisbane
2010 Kapala, Short St Gallery, Broome,
2010 Arampini: Artists from the Tiwi islands, NAS Gallery, National Art School, Sydney
2010 Natural ochres on paper by Alfonso Puautjimi, Estelle Munkanome and Lorna Kantilla, Nomad Art, Canberra
2010 Natural ochres on paper by Alfonso, Estelle Munkanome and Lorna Kantilla,
Outstation Art, Darwin
2009 Natural ochres on paper by Lorna Kantilla, Estelle Munkanome, Alfonso Puautjimi,
Raft Artspace, Darwin
2008 Natural ochres on paper by Lorna Kantilla, Estelle Munkanome & Alfonso Puautjimi,
Raft Artspace, Darwin
2008 Tokwampini Tiwi Bird Carvings, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
2008 New work from the Tiwi Islands, SoMA Galleries, Norwood, Adelaide
2007 Works on Paper and Canvas, Raft Artspace, Darwin
2007 Ngaruwanajirri Yikurri, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
2007 Yirrinkiripwaja, FAC Gallery, University of Wollongong
2007 3 man show,, Short St Gallery, Broome
2006 Tiwi Art, Raft Artspace, Darwin
2006 Natural ochres on paper by Lorna Kantilla, Estelle Munkanome & Alfonso Puautjimi, Raft Artspace, Darwin
2006 All the Tiwi Mob, Short St Gallery, Broome

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2006 Ngaruwanajirri, Supreme Court, Darwin
2005 Ngaruwanajirri Artists at Raft II, Raft Artspace, Darwin
2005 Ngaruwanajirri, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
2004 The Batchelor Collection 1994-2004, Darwin Supreme Court Foyer, Darwin
2004 Yirrajirrima, Raft Artspace, Darwin
2003 Ngaruwanajirri Yirrara, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
2002 Ngaruwanajirri, Tayikuwapi, Coomalie Culture Centre, Batchelor

Publications

2014 Ngurntakura Wangki – Amy's Story Annette Puruta Kogolo and Marminjiya Joy Nuggett with Sandy Toussaint UniPrint, The University of Western Australia
2004 National Gallery of Victoria Colour Power: Aboriginal art post 1984
2003 Exhibition Catalogue: Cullity Gallery UWA Perth/ Mangkaja Arts Resource Agency Martuwarra and Jila [River and Desert
2002 Exhibition Catalogue Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art Marrawarra and Jila entry/Ngurrara Canvas 1 entry
2001 Kaltja Now National Aboriginal Cultural Institute – Tandanya Painting Up Big, The Ngurrara Canvas
2000 AIATSIS Canberra Karrayili: The History of Karrayili Adult Education Centre
1996 Karrayili Adult Education Centre and Mangkaja Arts exhibition catalogue Minyarti Wangki NgaJukura Ngurrarajangka [This is the word from my country]
1995 Mangkaja Arts Resource Agency Mangkaja: Old Mangkaja, New Prints
1994 Exhibition catalogue Ngajakurra Ngurrara Minyarti [This Is My Country]

COLLECTIONS

Batchelor Institute, Batchelor, N.T., Lam Collection, University of San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, USA, Charles Darwin University Art Collection, Casuarina, Darwin, NT, University of Newcastle Art Collection, Newcastle, NSW.