



Ronnie Tjampitjinpa

(Indigenous Australian (Pintupi), born ca. 1943)

Biography

Ronnie Tjampitjinpa was born around 1943 in the vicinity of Muyin in the Western Desert, about 500 km west of Alice Springs. When Ronnie was young, he moved from place to place with his parents and family in the Pintupi language areas. In the 1970s, however, Ronnie stayed for a long time in Papunya, where he played an important role in the establishment of the artist collective Papunya Tula Artists.

Ronnie is one of Papunya's most prominent artists and his work and painting style influenced and inspired many Aboriginal people in the 1980s and 1990s. In 1988 he won the Alice Springs Art Prize, followed by several major solo exhibitions in Australia. In 2004 Ronnie is elected chairman of Papunya Tula Artists.

The stories or Dreamings that Ronnie paints are those of the Tingari Cycle, the ancestors of the Pintupi. These ancestors traveled across the land from one sacred place to another, performing ceremonies and rituals. These routes are characterized in his paintings by "songlines", the flowing colored lines. Ronnie was one of the first to translate these traditional stories, songs and Pintupi mythology into a modern medium. His paintings are a strong representation of the characteristic Pintupi style: repetition of forms that are geometric, simple and bold, and pigments that are often restricted to a basic palette of black, red, yellow and white.

Ronnie's work is internationally renowned and can therefore be admired in several large collections in Australia. However, his work has also been shown in Paris, Moscow, St. Petersburg and the Groninger Museum. In 2015 he was honored with a solo exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney.

Ronnie is married to Mary Brown Napangardi and continues to reside in the small Pintupi community of Kintore, deep into a remote desert area, about 500km west of Alice Springs.

Awards

1988 - Alice Art Prize, Alice Springs, Australia

Selected Collections

Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Australia
Musée des Arts Africains et Océaniens, Paris, France
Donald Kahn Collection, USA
Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, Miami, USA
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
Supreme Court of Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia
The Holmes à Court Collection, Perth, Australia
Owen and Wagner Collection, Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, Germany
Aboriginal Art Museum Utrecht (Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen), The Netherlands
Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA
Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, Australia
The British Museum, London, United Kingdom
Musée du quai Branly, Paris, France
Artbank, Sydney, Australia
Campbelltown City Art Gallery, Campbelltown, Australia
Medibank Private Collection
Flinders University Museum of Art, Adelaide, Australia
Griffith University Art Collection, Brisbane, Australia
Groninger Museum, Groningen, The Netherlands
Harvard Art Museum, Cambridge, USA
James D. Wolfensohn Collection, New York, USA
Macquarie Group Collection, Sydney, Australia
Allen, Allen & Hemsley Collection, Australia
Moree Plains Gallery Collection, Moree, Australia
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
Sammlung Essl, Vienna, Austria
Kunstwerk Sammlung Klein, Eberdingen-Nussdorf, Germany
Kaplan and Levi Collection, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, USA
Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, USA
University of Wollongong, Wollongong, Australia
Victorian Arts Centre Trust, Melbourne, Australia

Hank Ebes Collection, Melbourne, Australia
The Luczo Family Collection, USA
Parliament House Collection, Canberra, Australia
Museo Sa Bassa Blanca, Mallorca, Spain
Corrigan Collection, Sydney, Australia
Luciano Benetton Collection, Venice, Italy
Collection Edmund and Diana Hasche, Sydney, Australia

Selected Exhibitions

2020

ORIGINS, Australian Aboriginal Art from the SmithDavidson collection, SmithDavidson Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2019

Desert Painters of Australia, Works from the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia and the Collection of Steve Martin and Anne Stringfield, Gagosian Gallery, New York & Beverley Hills, USA

2017

Tjugunutja: From having come together, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia

2016

Everywhen: The Eternal Present in Indigenous Art from Australia, Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, USA

2015

Signs and Traces. Contemporary Aboriginal Exhibitions, Zamek Culture Centre, Poznan, Poland
Ronnie Tjampitjinpa, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

2014

New Pictures: Aboriginal Painting, Kunstwerk Sammlung Klein, Eberdingen-Nussdorf, Germany

2013

Crossing Cultures - the Owen and Wagner Collection of Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Art, Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, USA

2012

Papunya Tula: Works on Paper, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
Ancestral Modern: Australian Aboriginal Art from the Kaplan & Levi Collection, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, USA
Tjukurrjtjanu: Origins of Western Desert Art, Musée du quai Branly, Paris, France
Crossing Cultures - the Owen and Wagner Collection of Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Art, Hood Museum of Art, Hanover, Germany
Unique Perspectives: Papunya Tula Artists and the Alice Springs Community, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, Australia

2011

Tjukurrjtjanu: Origins of Western Desert Art, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
Living Water, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

2010

Desert Country, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia
The Desert Mob Art Show, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, Australia
Wilkinkarralakutu - Journeys to Lake Mackay, Cross Cultural Art Exchange, Darwin, Australia
Remembering Forward, Australian Aboriginal painting since 1960, Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany

2009

Icons Of The Desert: Early Aboriginal Paintings From Papunya, Cornell University, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, New York, USA
Tjukurrpa Palurukutu, Kutjupawana Palyantjana - Same Stories, A New Way, Papunya Tula Artists, Alice Springs, Australia
The Dreamers, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

2008

Marrkangku Yara Palyantjaku Ngurrangka - Making Strong Paintings At Home, Papunya Tula Artists, Alice Springs, Australia
Virtuosity: The Evolution of Painting at Papunya Tula, The Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, USA

2007

Papunya Tula 2007, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Australia
Recent Paintings 2007, Cross Cultural Art Exchange, Darwin, Australia
Pintupi - Mixed Exhibition, Papunya Tula Artists, Alice Springs, Australia

2006

Yawulyurru kapalilu palyara nintilpayi, Papunya Tula Artists, Alice Springs, Australia
Landmarks, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

2005-2006

Luminous - Contemporary Art From The Australian Desert, Grafton Regional Gallery, Grafton; Manning Regional Art Gallery, Taree; Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Bathurst; Manly Art Gallery and Museum, Manly; Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, Bundoora, Australia

2005

Pintupi Artists, Papunya Tula Artists, Alice Springs, Australia
Papunya Tula Artists, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Australia

2004

Talking About Abstraction, Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts, Sydney, Australia
Spirit & Vision, Sammlung Essl, Vienna, Austria
Mythology & Reality, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, Australia

2003

Australian Contemporary Aboriginal Art in Prague, Toskanský Place, Prague, Czech Republic
Pintupi Artists, Papunya Tula Artists, Alice Springs, Australia

2002

Crossroads - The Millennium Portfolio of Australian Aboriginal Prints, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore

2001

Musée des Beaux Arts et d Archeologie de Vienne, Vienne, Austria
Dreamscapes - Contemporary Desert Art, Mostings Hus, Frederiksberg, Denmark
Art Aborigene, Musée Olympic, Lausanne, Switzerland
Dreamtime: The Dark and The Light, Sammlung Essl, Vienna, Austria
Indigenous Highlights from the State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia
Aborigena, Palazzo Bricherasio, Turin, Italy

2000

Pintupi Men, Papunya Tula Artists, Alice Springs, Australia
Papunya Tula: Genesis and Genius, Australia Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
Aboriginal Lawman- Masterworks, Australian Exhibition Centre, Chicago, USA

1999

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco, USA

1998

The Desert Mob Art Show, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, Australia

1997

Pintupi Painters, Papunya Tula Artists Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia

1996

Twenty Five Years and Beyond: Papunya Tula Painting, Flinders University Art Museum, Adelaide, Australia
Imagining the Real: an exhibition of recent acquisitions from the Parliament House Collection, Canberra, Australia

1994

Power of the Land, Masterpieces of Aboriginal Art, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
Dreamings - Tjukurrpa: Aboriginal Art of the Western Desert; The Donald Kahn collection, Museum Villa Stuck, Munich, Germany

1993

Tjukurrpa, Desert Dreamings, Aboriginal Art from Central Australia (1971-1993), Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Australia
Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Exhibition, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, Australia
Aratjara - Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, Kunstsammlung, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany

1992

9th Telstra NATSIAA, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia

1991

The Painted Dream, Auckland City Art Gallery, Auckland; National Art Gallery and Museum, Wellington, New Zealand
Australian Aboriginal Art from the Collection of Donald Kahn, Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, Miami, USA

1990

National Gallery of Modern Art, Rome, Italy

1989

Aboriginal Art: The Continuing Tradition, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia

1985

The Face of the Centre: Papunya Tula Paintings 1971-1984, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia