



MANGKAJA



08 91915272; mangkaja.arts@bigpond.com; www.mangkaja.com



Sonia Kurarra

Skin: Nampiyinti

Language: Walmajarri

Country: Noonkanbah

DOB: 1952



Sonia Kurarra grew up in the river country at Yungngora (Noonkanbah). She used to help the kindergarten teacher with teaching art. They used to take the children out to the Sandy Billabong and teach them how to paint and dance. There is a *ngarrangkarni* [Dreamtime] snake that lives in the billabong. His name is Nangurra.

Sonia began painting at Mangkaja in the early 1990s working mostly on paper. Since 2008, Sonia has been working predominantly on canvas and her practice has become more consistent. She has exhibited in numerous group shows and had an overwhelming response to her first solo shows in 2009.

Sonia paints the sandy billabong country along the stretch of the Fitzroy River that runs directly behind the community. After the flood waters recede, there are billabongs that hold a plentiful supply of *parlka* [barramundi], *kurlumajarti* [catfish] and bream. She paints *gapi* [fish], *parrmarr* [rocks] where the fish is cooked, *ngurti* [coolamon] and a *karli* [boomerang].

Sonia paints these images over and over as though they are etched into her psyche; works that are linear representations in monotonous and others that are layers lathered on with wild and confident brush strokes. These contemporary compositions display an outstanding understanding of colour.

PAINTING THEMES:

Fitzroy River and billabongs near Yungngora (Noonkanbah)
River behind Yungngora



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SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2009: *Sonia Kurarra*
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Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, WA
Gallery Gondwana, Sydney, NSW

GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

2009: *Mangkaja Artists 60x60*
2009: *Sharing Difference on Common Ground*

Randell Lane Fine Art, WA
Holmes a Court Gallery, Perth, WA and
Kimberley Aboriginal Artists
Caspary Conference Centre,
University of NSW

2009: *Shalom Gamarada*

Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs, NT
Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
Outstation, Darwin, NT
Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River, WA
The Indigenous Scholarship Fund,
Sydney and Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
Randell Lane Fine Art, WA
Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
Gallery Gondwana, Sydney, NSW
ReDot Gallery, Singapore
Artkelch, Freiburg, Germany
The Indigenous Scholarship Fund,
Sydney and Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT
Cullity Gallery,
University of Western Australia

2009: *East Meets West*
2009: *Senior Artists from Fitzroy Crossing*
2009: *Mangkaja Survey Show*
2009: *Emerging and Re-emerging*
2009: *Margaret River Meets Fitzroy Crossing*
2008: *Bendi Lango*

2008: *Mangkaja Artists WA*
2008: *Women on Country*
2008: *Divas of The Desert*
2008: *Marnintu Maparnana [Women Painting]*
2008: *Wet n' Wild*
2007: *Bendi Lango*

2007: *Women Artists of Fitzroy Crossing*
2003: *Water and Food*

COLLECTIONS:

Kerry Stokes
Holmes a Court Collection, Perth

PUBLICATIONS:

2009: Kimberley Aboriginal Artists
Sharing Difference on Common Ground
2003: Exhibition Catalogue
Cullity Gallery UWA Perth / Mangkaja Arts Resource Agency
Martuwarra and Jila, Jumu, Jiwari and Wirrkuja

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