

Notes for Editors

- **Independent Selection Panel Members' Biographies**

Djon Mundine

Djon Mundine is a member of the Bandjalung people of northern New South Wales. Djon has an extended career as a curator, activist and writer, and was the concept curator for the Aboriginal Memorial installation permanently exhibited at the National Gallery of Australia. Djon was awarded an OAM in 1993 and was Research Professor at Minpaku Museum of Ethnology in Osaka during 2005-06. He is currently Indigenous Curator – Contemporary Art at the Campbelltown Art Centre where he mounted the *Sunshine State – Smart State* and *More Than My Skin* exhibitions.

Ian McLean

Ian McLean studied painting at the Victorian College of the Arts and art history at Monash University, and completed a PhD at the University of Melbourne. He has been teaching art history for nearly 25 years and is currently Discipline Chair of Visual Arts at the University of Western Australia. Ian has written extensively on Australian and Aboriginal art in Australian and international journals. Publications include *The art of Gordon Bennett* and *White Aborigines*. An anthology of writing on Aboriginal art since 1980, *How Aborigines invented contemporary art*, is currently in press. Ian is also on the Advisory Board of the international postcolonial art journal, *Third Text*.

- **Exhibiting Artists' Biographies**

Jean Baptiste Apuatimi, 1940 – Japijapunga (March Fly) peoples

Jean Baptiste Apuatimi is one of the most senior and renowned artists on the Tiwi Islands. Jean began painting and carving at Tiwi Design Aboriginal Corporation in 1997 and has held 12 solo exhibitions during that time. Jean is the custodian of an arts practise steeped in the traditions of Tiwi art and culture which was passed on from her late husband Declan Apuatimi. As a contemporary artist Jean draws upon the traditions of Tiwi body painting and ceremonial practice to inform her work.

Daniel Boyd, 1982 – Kudjla/Gangalu peoples

Born in far north Queensland, Daniel Boyd now lives and works in the Blue Mountains, NSW. He is increasingly represented in solo and group shows across Australia, and his work is represented in the National Gallery of Australia collection. Daniel's work challenges the Eurocentric view of Australian history. Daniel Boyd is regarded by many as one of the top 50 collectable Australian Artists.

His gently ironic works reinterpret Australia's colonial past, drawing attention to the subjective nature of the Australian history we are taught. Boyd re-appropriates classical portraits, which feature colonial icons such as Captain Cook, Governor Phillip and King George the III. He adorns the 'heroes' of empire with eye patches, parrots and necklaces

of skulls, to suggest their true status as thieving pirates. Boyd interrogates official history in order to create a dialogue between opposing ideas and cultures.

Fiona Foley, 1964 –

Badtjala people

Fiona was co-founder of the Boomali Aboriginal Artists Co-operative Sydney in 1987. In 2003 she was appointed Adjunct Professor at Queensland College of Art, Griffith University. Fiona has exhibited nationally and internationally, powerfully drawing attention to Australia's unwritten histories.

Jenny Fraser, 1971 –

Yugambah peoples

Jenny's family hails from Yugambah country in South East Queensland. She holds a Graduate Diploma in Arts – Film and Television Production and Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Art/Film and Media Majors at Queensland University of Technology. Jenny has exhibited nationally and internationally and she was the winner of the Gold Coast Indigenous Art & Design Award in 2008. Using diverse creative mediums, her work takes iconic and everyday symbols of Australian life and places them into a context that questions the values they represent.

Sally Gabori, c.1924 –

Kayardild / Kaladilt people

Sally Gabori is a senior woman of the Kaladilt people from the South Wellesley Islands in the Southern Gulf of Carpentaria, Queensland. In 2005 Sally Gabori was in her early 80's and had just begun to paint her first tentative paintings at Mornington Island Arts and Craft centre. Her work is noted for her use of paint and fascination with colour. Sally's subject matter includes depictions of her country and ancestral stories.

Gordon Hookey, 1961 –

Waanyi / Waanjiminjin people

Gordon Hookey completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales, Sydney, in 1992. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, and he is represented in Australian university, state and national collections.

Gordon's work makes strong statements through his use of metaphor. He incorporates native and non-native animals into his subject matter alongside other symbolic, mythical and fictional characters, in order to give voice to Australia's urban Indigenous peoples and cultures.

Dinni Kunoth Kemarre, 1954 –
Anmatyerre people

Dinni's works demonstrate his highly idiosyncratic artistic vision and draws upon his astute observations of the world around him. He carves human figures in traditional bodypaint, and the birds and animals which inhabit his country, as well as cotemporary subject matter such as furniture, vehicles and Aussie Rules footy players.

Patrick Mung Mung, 1948 –
Gija people

Patrick Mung Mung is a senior artist at Warmun Art Centre and an elder at Warmun Community in the East Kimberley. His knowledge of country and his cultural memory of family, land and work are powerfully linked in his work. He is committed to teaching his grandchildren the 'bush ways' of Gija people.

Naata Nungurrayi, c.1932 -
Pintupi people

Naata Nungurrayi was born at Kumil, which is west of the Pollock Hills in Western Australia, c.1932. In 1999 Naata contributed to the Kintore women's painting as part of the Western Desert Dialysis Appeal, and in 2003 she was chosen along with four other Papunya Tula Artists to have one of her paintings represented on an Australia Post international stamp. Naata Nungurrayi was named among the Top 50 of Australia's Most Collectable Artists in Australian Art Collector Issue 27 in 2004.

Josie Kunoth Petyarre, 1954 –
Anmatyerre people

Josie began producing art in the early 1980s as part of the Utopia Women's Batik Group and was involved in the 1988 *Picture Story* batik project, and the 1989 *A Summer Project* which marked the beginning of painting at Utopia.

Shane Pickett, 1957 –
Nyoongar people

Shane is one of the foremost Nyoongar artists working in Australia today, combining his deep knowledge and concern for Nyoongar culture with a confident and individual style of gestural abstraction. He has exhibited in every state and territory in Australia, and his works are held in major private and public collections across the country.

June Richards, 1951 –
Ngaanyatjarra people

June is well versed in Ngaanyatjarra and Western culture, and has been a major contributor to the Ngaanyatjarra dictionary project. Her small pointed text paintings reveal one of the first voices from the Ngaanyatjarra lands to offer a critical perspective on the making and marketing of Aboriginal art – painted from the inside.

Muni (Rita) Simpson, 1941 –
Manyjilyjarra people

Muni was born at Junpuninja, close to Kurtarrara, around 1941. Muni often paints with her sisters, Rosie and Dulcie, and is a member of the recently formed Martumili artists group.

Spinifex Artists Group
Pitjanjatjara people

The people of the Great Victorian Desert go by the name of the Spinifex People and they paint their country. Their homelands are located north west of the Nullabor Plain, centred on two desert communities of Tjuntjuntjara and Ilkurku, their land being taken over for the Maralinga atomic tests between 1952 and 1957.

In December 2002 a group of Spinifex artists visited Japingka Gallery for their first commercial exhibition to be held in Western Australia. About 28 artists from the community participated in that exhibition. By that time the Spinifex Arts Project had been operating for six years, set up initially to establish and document the connections between the Spinifex People and their lands. This process successfully contributed to the Spinifex People being handed title to their homelands in November 2001. From there the role of painting rapidly grew as a new way to portray people's traditional ownership of country. The paintings of the Spinifex artists are generally typified by strong colour and bold structure, representing metaphysical maps, spiritual journeys and markers of kinship ownership, drawn out across the desert topography. Since 2002, their work has been shown more widely in Australia, as well as in Europe.

The artists in the Spinifex Artists Group selected for the exhibition are: Lennard Walker, Byron Brookes, Ian Rictor, Fred Grant, Ned Grant, Roy Underwood and Simon Hogan.

Alick Tipoti, 1975 –
Kala Lagaw Ya of the Maluilgal people

Alick Tipoti was the winner of the 2008 non-acquisitive People's Choice Award at the 2008 NATSIAA and Fremantle Print Award. He holds an Advance Diploma of Arts from Thursday Island TAFE College and a Bachelor of Visual Arts from the Australian National University, Canberra. Alick is an established printmaker whose work is exhibited nationally and overseas.

Patrick Tjungurrayi, c.1940 –
Pintupi people

Patrick was born in the Gibson Desert near Jupiter Well c. 1940. He is a Pintupi speaker who divides his time between Balgo and the Pintupi homeland community of Kiwirrkura to the south. In 1999 Patrick contributed to the Kiwirrkura men's painting as part of the Western Desert Dialysis Appeal. Patrick Tjungurrayi was named among the Top 50 of Australia's Most Collectable Artists in Australian Art Collector Issue 31 in 2005.

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