



MICHAEL NELSON JAGAMARA

Born: 1946 Pikilyi (Vaughan Springs)

Language and Clan: Warlpiri

Lives: Papunya NT

Paints: Papunya NT & Brisbane QLD

Michael Nelson began painting in 1982 in Papunya, Central Australia, in the classic 'dot and circle' tradition of desert sand painting. Much of his work centres on the country in the Mt Singleton area and tells of traditional Dreaming stories including Possum, Kangaroo, Emu and Lightning. Michael Nelson was recognised nationally and internationally in the late 1980s through numerous public art commissions and awards including the 1984 Telstra National Aboriginal Art Award.

MNJ's significant contribution to Aboriginal Art was recognised in 2008, when he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of New South Wales. His works are held in numerous private, corporate and most public collections in Australia including National Gallery of Australia and National Museum of Australia, as well as in public and private collections in Asia, Europe and the USA.

EXHIBITIONS—SOLO (selected)

2014 *Big Storm Between Two Places* Michael Nelson Jagamara + Michael Nelson Jagamara and Imants Tillers FireWorks Gallery Brisbane

2013 *Firebrand I: In Focus Laurie Nilsen and Michael Nelson Jagamarra* FireWorks Gallery Brisbane

2012 *Lightning Man* FireWorks Gallery Brisbane

2010 *Summer Storms* FireWorks Gallery Brisbane

2008 *MICHAEL NELSON JAGAMARA: from the studio* FireWorks Gallery Brisbane

2006 *Michael Nelson Jagamara: Stone Knife Arrangements* FireWorks Gallery Brisbane

2006 *Lines + Signs* Artstation Kollmitzberg Austria

2002 *MNJ & Campfire Group* Adelaide Fringe Festival Adelaide City Hall

2002 *A Foot in Two Worlds* Kuko Dreaming Kollmitzberg Austria

2000 *Some Other Way: MNJ and Campfire Group* FireWorks Gallery Brisbane

2000 *Michael Nelson Jagamara Paintings* Japingka Gallery Fremantle

- 1999 *Without the Story the Painting Is Nothing* Brisbane City Gallery
- 1999 *New Expressions* FireWorks Gallery Brisbane
- 1993 *Many Stories* Utopia Art Sydney
- 1990 *Michael Nelson Jagamara* Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi Melbourne
- 1989 *Michael Nelson Jagamara* Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi Melbourne

EXHIBITIONS—GROUP (selected)

- 2014 *Dreamings: Australian Aboriginal Art Meets De Chirico* Museo Carlo Boletti Rome
- 2013 *Gold Coast Art Prize* Gold Coast Arts Centre Gold Coast
- 2006 – 2014 *Tattersall's Club Landscape Art Prize* Brisbane (winner in 2006)
- 2012 *The Loaded Ground: Paintings by Michael Nelson Jagamara and Imants Tillers* Drill Hall Gallery Australian National University Canberra
- 2009 *Sculpture + Works on Paper* FireWorks Gallery Brisbane
- 2008 *Wynne Prize* Art Gallery of New South Wales Sydney
- 2007 *Redlands Westpac Art Prize* Sydney
- 2007 *Crossing Cultures 2: Indigenous Art from Western Sydney and the North Western Desert* Blacktown Art Centre Sydney
- 2007 *Archibald Prize (a joint work: 'Portrait of MNJ' by David Paulson 'Kangaroo' by MNJ)* Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 2006-7 *gifted an exhibition of Indigenous Art* at the AGNSW Sydney
- 2006 *Imants Tillers: One World Many Visions (collaborations with Imants Tillers)* National Gallery of Australia
- 2005 *SHOOSH: The History of the Campfire Group* Institute of Modern Art Brisbane
- 2004 *Cultural Copy: Visual Conversations on Indigenous Art and Cultural Appropriation* Fowler Museum UCLA California USA
- 2003 *BIG ART small viewer: a collaborative community project* Campus Kindy University of Queensland Brisbane
- 2003 *A Few Good Men* fortyfive downstairs Melbourne
- 2003 *Colour* Queensland Art Gallery Brisbane

- 2003 *See Here Now: Vizard Foundation Art Collection of the 1990s* The Ian Potter Museum of Art The University of Melbourne
- 2003 *What have you done lately (to change the situation)?* FireWorks Gallery Brisbane
- 2003 *Black & White (collaborations with Michael Eather)* Artstation Kollmitzberg Austria
- 2002 *Not yet post-Aboriginal (collaborations with Imants Tillers)* Hazlehurst Regional Art Gallery
- 2001 *DREAMTIME: The Dark and The Light* Sammlung Essl Austria
- 2000 *Genesis and Genius* Art Gallery of New South Wales Sydney
- 2000 *Art of Place National Indigenous Heritage Art Award* Old Parliament House Canberra
- 1999 *3rd Asia-Pacific Triennial* Queensland Art Gallery Brisbane
- 1999 *Twenty-Five Years and Beyond: Papunya Tula Painting* Flinders University Art Museum Adelaide
- 1998 *Art of Place 4th National Indigenous Heritage Art Award* Australian Heritage Commission Canberra
- 1996 *Dreamings of the Desert: Aboriginal Dot Painting of the Western Desert* Art Gallery of South Australia
- 1996 *All Stock Must Go! (with Campfire Group)* Asia-Pacific Triennial Queensland Art Gallery
- 1993-4 *ARATJARA: Art of the First Australians* touring: Kunstammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen Dusseldorf Hayward Gallery London Louisiana Museum Humlebæk Denmark
- 1993 *Tjukurrpa Desert Dreamings: Aboriginal Art from Central Australia (1971–1993)* Art Gallery of Western Australia Perth
- 1992 *Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Exhibition* Araluen Centre Alice Springs
- 1992 *Crossroads – Towards a New Reality: Aboriginal Art from Australia* The National Museum of Modern Art Kyoto and Tokyo Japan
- 1991 *Aboriginal Art and Spirituality* High Court Canberra
- 1991 *Flash Pictures* National Gallery of Australia Canberra
- 1991 *The Painted Dream: Contemporary Aboriginal Paintings from the Tim and Vivien Johnson Collection* Auckland City Art Gallery and Te Whare o Aotearoa National Art Gallery New Zealand

- 1991 *Alice to Penzance* The Mall Galleries London
- 1990 *Balance 1990: Views Visions Influences* Queensland Art Gallery Brisbane
- 1990 National Gallery of Modern Art Rome
- 1989 *Papunya Tula: Contemporary Paintings from Australia's Western Desert* John Weber Gallery New York
- 1989 *Aboriginal Art: The Continuing Tradition* National Gallery of Australia Canberra
- 1989 *Windows on the Dreaming* National Gallery of Australia Canberra
- 1989 Centro Cultural de Arte Contemporaneo Mexico City
- 1989 *A Myriad of Dreaming: Twentieth Century Aboriginal Art* Westpac Gallery Melbourne and Design Warehouse Sydney (through Lauraine Diggins Fine Art)
- 1988 *Dreamings: the Art of Aboriginal Australia* The Asia Society Galleries New York
- 1987 *State of the Art: Ideas and Images of the 1980s* Institute of Contemporary Art London
- 1987 *4th National Aboriginal Art Award* Exhibition Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Darwin
- 1986 *Biennale of Sydney* Art Gallery of New South Wales Sydney
- 1986 Roar Studios Melbourne
- 1985 *The Face of the Centre: Papunya Tula Paintings 1971–1984* National Gallery of Victoria Melbourne
- 1984 *Papunya and Beyond* Araluen Centre Alice Springs
- 1984 *1st National Aboriginal Art Award* Exhibition Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Darwin National Gallery of Victoria Melbourne
- 1982-3 *Papunya Tula* Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi Melbourne

COMMISSIONS

- 1989 BMW Art Car Project Painted BMW M3 Racing Car
- 1988 Possum & Wallaby Dreaming Forecourt Mosaic New Parliament House Canberra
- 1987 Possum Dreaming Bicentennial Mural Sydney Opera House

AWARDS

- 2008 Honorary Doctorate University of New South Wales Sydney

2007 Redlands Westpac Art Prize Sydney
2006 Winner Tattersall's Club Landscape Art Prize Brisbane
2002 Winner Conrad Jupiters Art Prize Gold Coast City Art Gallery
1993 Fellowship Visual Arts/Craft Board of the Australia Council Sydney
1993 Australian Medal for Services to Aboriginal Art
1984 Winner 1st National Aboriginal Art Award Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Darwin

COLLECTIONS

Australian Museum Sydney
National Gallery of Australia Canberra
Parliament House Art Collection Canberra
Queensland Art Gallery Brisbane
University of Queensland Art Museum Brisbane
Art Gallery of New South Wales Sydney
Art Gallery of South Australia Adelaide
Art Gallery of Western Australia Perth
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Darwin
Griffith Artworks Brisbane
Artbank Sydney
Opera House Sydney
Powerhouse Museum Sydney
Flinders University Art Museum Adelaide
Gold Coast City Art Gallery Queensland
Rockhampton Art Gallery Queensland
Broken Hill Art Gallery New South Wales
Araluen Arts Centre Alice Springs
Paul Eliadis Collection Brisbane

The Holmes à Court Collection Perth

Vizard Collection Melbourne

Sammlung Essl Austria

Centre Culturel Tjibaou New Caledonia

Ho-am Art Museum Seoul Korea

BMW Art Car Project United States

The Kelton Foundation Santa Monica United States

Numerous private collections Australia & overseas