

Iwantja artists win big!

Desart wishes to congratulate Vincent Namatjira, Peter Mungkuri, Alec Baker and Iwantja Arts for their incredible achievements in 2017!

This year Vincent was shortlisted for the Ramsay Art Prize, NATSIAA, Archibald, Moran Portrait Prize, and the National Self Portrait Prize – five in total!

Following a sell-out show at Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, in which Peter and Alec produced collaborative paintings for the first time, the two men were both shortlisted for the NATSIAA. Peter went on to win the Hadley Art Prize (the world's richest prize for landscape art) and Alec was shortlisted for the Adelaide Perry Prize for Drawing.

See Peter's winning work *Ngura Wiru (Good country)* overleaf.

Image: Alec Baker and Peter Mungkuri. © Iwantja Arts.



Tjanpi Desert Weavers features in Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters at National Museum of Australia in Canberra

Attempting to tell an Indigenous founding narrative by using Indigenous ways of passing on knowledge within an exhibition space, Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters was inspired by an investigative collaboration between senior custodians of Martu country and APY and Ngaanyatjarra lands. Focused artist camps took place with Tjanpi Desert Weavers and the resulting work, Kungkarrangkalnga-ya Parrpakanu (Seven sisters are flying), is a major feature of the exhibition and has been purchased by the National Museum of Australia. Also part of the exhibition are other Tjanpi works – Minyma Punu Kungkarangkalpa (on loan from the Museum of Contemporary Art) and The Seven Sisters (on loan from the Western Australian Museum). Tjanpi Desert Weavers supported the opening of Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters by participating in the Artist Residency. Dorcas Tinnimai Bennett from Warakurna (WA) and Yvonne Lewis and Rene Nelson from Irrunytju (WA) hosted weaving workshops and provided demonstrations of their weaving practice for visitors to the exhibition. Songlines runs until 25 February 2018.

Image: Tjanpi artists letting their tjanpi sisters fly. Kungkarrangkalnga-ya Parrpakanu (Seven Sisters are Flying), 2015. Photo by Vicki Bosisto. © Tjanpi Desert Weavers, NPY Women's Council.

Robert Fielding – Mimili Maku Arts

After taking out the NATSIAA Work on Paper Prize with this work 'Milkali Kutju – One blood', Robert Fielding has capped off an incredibly successful year with a critically acclaimed series of photographs, in which he has transformed the abandoned, rusted-out cars of the APY lands through painting and long-exposure photography.

"I'm salvaging what belonged to the elders of our communities, throughout the APY Lands and from Indulkana and Mimili ... and bringing these cars to life"

At time of publication, Robert is in Winnipeg, representing Mimili at the First Nations Curators Exchange, a partnership between Australia Council for the Arts, Creative New Zealand, and Canada Council for the Arts. An exchange forum based on art and technology, the exchange program will increase important networks and collaborations and enhance the engagement between international market development and First Nations artists and arts workers.

Congratulations Robert for your incredible efforts and achievements. We can't wait to see what you accomplish in 2018!

Image: Robert Fielding with one of his painted cars. © Mimili Maku Arts.

In Cahoots – artists collaborate across country

In Cahoots: artists collaborate across Country is an expansive exhibition of new work taking over Fremantle Art Centre's galleries. The works are the result of 18 months of artists' residencies in remote and regional Aboriginal art centres around Australia, including the following Desart member art centres:

Martumili Artists (WA) with Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro (NSW).
Papulankutja Artists (WA) with Louise Haselton (SA).
Warakurna Artists (WA) with Tony Albert (QLD/NSW).

"Collaborating with other artists is my favourite thing to do! The sharing of knowledge and ideas is something that I was brought up with and is very important. One of the best ways of learning about different people is the opportunity to live, work and collaborate with them. I was very surprised at how supportive the community was to one another given the incredible restrictions on remote life." – Tony Albert

In Cahoots is on display at Fremantle Art Centre until 28 January 2018.

Image: Tony Albert working with Warakurna Artists, Warakurna. Photographer: David Charles Collins. Courtesy of Warakurna Artists, 2017.



Waltja – Getting Clever with Media

Waltja Media Unit staff are working on a project called 'Nintipulka Mitiyaku - Getting Clever About Media'. Leonard Hillman, Veronica James, Amanda Clarke and a trainee will be attending communities throughout the year, working with young people and developing a network of people interested in media training. They will be sharing skills using technology, digital photography and video, telling stories and sharing them through social media and the internet. Some of the media skills have focused on interviewing, making music videos and filming bush food stories. Post production skills will also be included in the future.

We will primarily be working with school groups but are also interested in helping young people who may not be engaged in school. If you know of any kids who would like to learn more, please contact Leonard or Veronica at mmedia@waltja.org.au.



Key Dates

25 Dec – 08 Jan	Desart office closed
21-22 Feb	SAM Training – Desart Training Room, Alice Springs
26 March	Art Centre Governance Training – DoubleTree by Hilton, Alice Springs
27-28 March	Desart Art Centre Conference – DoubleTree by Hilton, Alice Springs
29 March	Lightroom Image Management Training – DoubleTree by Hilton, Alice Springs
TBC March	Central Desert Regional Meeting
TBC June	Barkly Artist Camp

Email blasts for Desart members

Keep up to date with industry grant and art prizes & competition opportunities and news. Email Jasper at programofficer@desart.com.au if you're missing out on our grant and competition email blasts.

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Art, words and photos from Central Australian Aboriginal art centres

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THE DESART MOB



Culture First.
 Supporting Aboriginal Art Centres of Central Australia

Barkly Regional Arts - Exhibition at the 7th Biennale Hors Normes, Lyon

On 27th of September 2017, Barkly Regional Arts opened a major exhibition at the Mairie du 3e Lyon as a component of the 7th Biennale Hors Normes, an international festival celebrating 'outside art' and the diversity of non-academic art practices throughout the world. The exhibition developed from a partnership with La Sauce Singulière, a non-profit arts organisation who developed the festival program.

Georges Bureau, Visual Arts Coordinator at Barkly Regional Arts, delivered a public lecture to accompany the show, featuring over forty paintings and textiles from the communities of Epenarra, Canteen Creek, Mungkarta, Elliott and Tennant Creek. The event was well attended by the public, with city officials and members of the local art scene making an appearance. Feedback was extremely positive, with festival goers drawn to the characteristic 'Barkly' style of the artworks – traditional and contemporary motifs and naïve forms depicting family histories, bush medicines, hunting trips and pastoral life.

A wonderful time was had by all – thanks again to La Sauce Singulière and Mairie du 3e Lyon for having us!



Image: Exhibition opening night. Courtesy Barkly Regional Arts.

