

Art, words and photos from
Central Australian Aboriginal Art Centres

Quarterly edition, Winter 2020

THE DESART RADAR



Culture First.

Supporting Aboriginal Art Centres
of Central Australia

● NIRIN 22nd Biennale of Sydney extended to 27th September 2020

Tennant Creek Brio

The Tennant Creek Brio are currently exhibiting in Nirin 22nd Biennale of Sydney. Brio is an Italian word meaning courage, or liveliness of style or performance, which perfectly describes this collective. Drawing on multiple influences from various traditional and contemporary cultural forms and universal imagery they have created a significant social and cultural voice reflecting the challenges of life in a frontier town, marred by the ongoing impacts of colonization and the continual struggle to maintain cultural identity. Some of the collective's 'found' materials – such as disused metal, plan drawings from a nearby abandoned mine site, and disused poker machines – potently feed into the force of this commentary and outsider status.

The collective members are Fabian Brown, Jimmy Frank, Joseph Williams, Rupert Betheras, Marcus Camphoo, Simon Wilson, Lindsay Nelson, Clifford Thompson and Matthew Ladd.



Images: (top) Joseph Williams, Jimmy Frank Jnr, Fabian Brown, performance at Artspace, *Gangsters of Art* installation, 2020; (bottom) *One-Eyed Man*, mixed media on repurposed Pokie Machine, 2020 courtesy Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Cultural Centre.

● *NIRIN 22nd Biennale of Sydney extended to 27th September 2020*

Kulilaya munuya nintiriwa (listen and learn), 2020

Kunmanara Mumu Mike Williams was invited to participate in the 22nd Biennale of Sydney before his passing in March 2019. His vision for the exhibition was a large-scale political protest piece. Guided by his widow Tuppy Ngintja Goodwin and his lifelong friend and collaborator Sammy Dodd, Kunmanara's vision has been realised by community and Mimili Maku Arts.

After the Biennale the banners will be sent back to Mimili for an installation on country. This sending the banners back and forth evokes the Australia Post mailbags that Kunmanara used to co-opt for his art practice, a way of sending letters and petitions to government via the gallery wall with the strengths and precision of the spear.

'... I use the Tjukurpa, which was given to me by my grandfather. This is my weapon, my Law, my Tjukurpa. This ancient power is as potent as ever. ... To you all in the city: Are you getting my message? This is Aboriginal land.'
(Kunmanara Mumu Mike Williams, 2018)

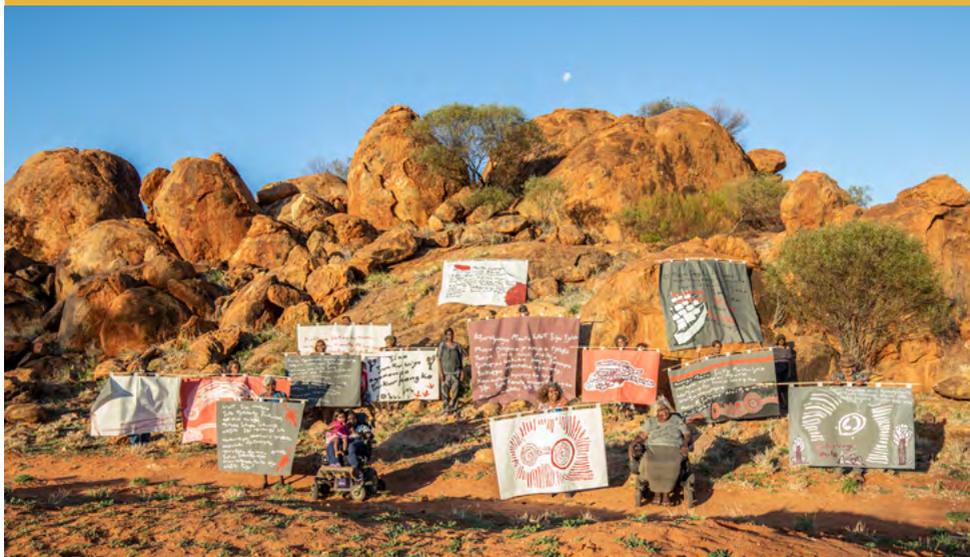
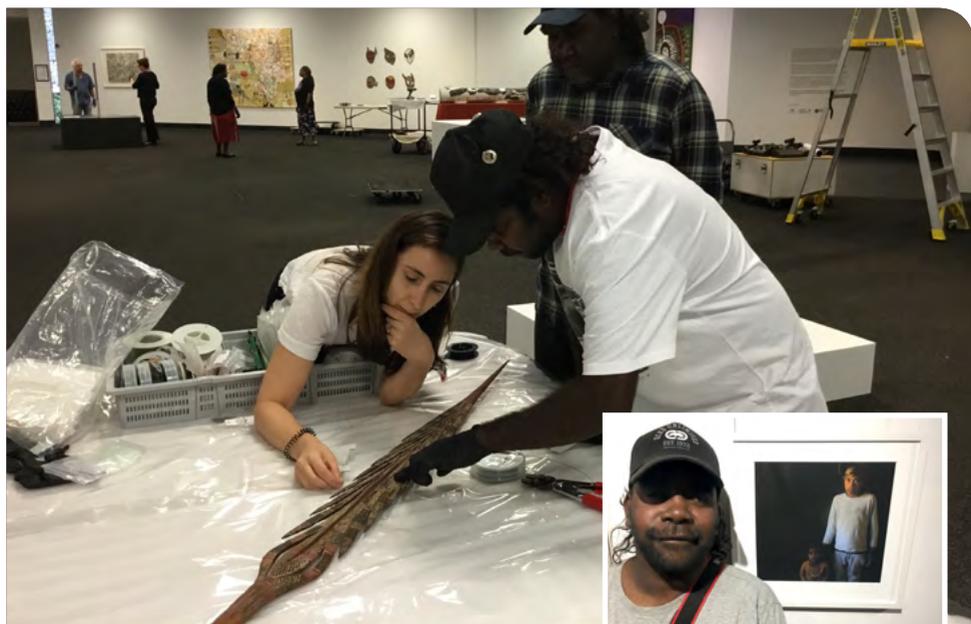


Image: Some of the participating Mimili Maku Artists in Mimili Community, with the banners. Courtesy Meg Hansen photography.



Desart Art Worker Program

Yarrenyty Arltere Artists art worker, Cornelius Ebatarinja has undertaken three Desart photography workshops 2017 – 2019 and attended industry engagement trips to Adelaide and Perth. In 2019 he participated in the five-week Desart – Museum and Art Gallery of the NT program following the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Art Award from selection to installation. He was one of five art workers who Desart took to Sydney, to Darwin three times and one workshop was in Alice Springs. Cornelius gained hands-on experience in photography, conservation, installation and exhibition design, and the opportunity to work with gallery staff and interact with new people. Cornelius won the 2019 Desart Photography Prize. He appears in two Desart project films. In Yarrenyty Arltere Artists' film *Petrol Been Wasting All Our Lives* featured in the Art Gallery of South Australia for Tarnanthi 2019 he discusses how important it is for his community to have an art centre. Desart's professional development program has not only given Cornelius solid, relevant, specialised arts skills, but he has also gained a clear appreciation of the importance of his own art worker role in the wider context of the national Aboriginal art world.

Images: (main) Working with Eliana Urrutia-Bernard to install *Momentum* exhibition at Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, Darwin 2019; (inset) Winner of the 2019 Desart Photography Prize with *Because they are always here*, Desart art space Alice Springs, 2019

Image: Warlyirti art worker Jackie Williams preparing work for freighting on the mail plane, courtesy Warlyirti Artists.



Art Workers keep Art Centres operating

Western Australia art centre Warlyirti Artists in the Balgo community didn't slow down during Covid-19. While art centre managers returned to families, art worker Jackie Williams ensured all online purchases made the mail plane and that artists were paid. "Jackie was integral to art centre operations, without him the art centre would have had to close, putting real pressure on artists and the community" – Studio Manager, Poppy Lever.



Minyma Kutjara – *Revealed 2020*

The past few years has seen Desert working closely with Minyma Kutjara to build on the remarkable artistic legacy of Irrunytju Arts, the first art centre in WA's Ngaanyatjarra Lands.

The art centre has had an

upgrade and Minyma Kutjara are exploring new ways of working in various mediums including painting and sculpture from locally found objects. Minyma Kutjara are currently showing at *Revealed Exhibition* in Fremantle, Perth until July. The four works by Lynette Brown, Roma Yanyakarri Butler, Sally Foster and Maureen Nelson have been acquired as a collection by Foundation Opale in Switzerland.

I called this car Joyrider because it takes me everywhere, swimming, out bush, funerals, Pipalyatjara and Kalka; to all my favourite places. Image: Maureen Tjalumi Nelson *Joyrider* 26 x 32 x 74cm. Photo: Pixel Poetry. Courtesy Fremantle Arts Centre.



Rawa Titungarala (Continuing from a long time ago)

Rawa Titungarala is a dynamic joint exhibition between Papulankutja Artists, Tjarlirli Art and Warakurna Artists in

partnership with Artsource aimed at highlighting the resilience, innovation and power of an evolving generation of artists from the remote Ngaanyatjarra Lands. The curated exhibition of art and design works convey a sense of timelessness, depicted through the wild mappings of dreamtime stories as paint on canvas; streetwear as a vehicle for representations of self, language, and the imaginative play of youth giving contemporary context to concerns and beliefs.

Image: Artists creating works for *Rawa Titungarala* during the Patjarr bush trip, courtesy Warakurna Artists.

Image: Alison Milyika Carroll, Red Ochre Award 2020 recipient, courtesy Ernabella Arts.



Alison Milyika Carroll

Desart congratulates Ernabella Arts artist, Chairperson and champion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Alison Milyika Carroll, for being awarded the prestigious Red Ochre Award Lifetime Achievement at the First Nations Arts Awards 2020, presented by the Australia Council in May. The award recognises her lifetime achievements as an artist, cultural leader, and for her many contributions to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts.

Image: (insert) Alison Milyika Carroll at the Desert Mob Symposium 2018, James Henry, Desart.

Key Dates

- 10 July** Desert Photography Prize submissions close
- 6 – 14 August** Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair online:
www.darwinaboriginalartfair.com
- 8 August – 31 January 2021** Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards
MAGNT, Darwin NT
- 28 August – 11 September** Desert Symposium online www.desart.com.au
- 11 September** Desert Mob Exhibition Opening, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
- 11 September – 25 October** Desert Mob Exhibition Araluen Arts Centre
- 12 September** Desert Mob MarketPlace, Araluen Arts Centre

Email blasts for Desart members

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

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