



Regina Pilawuk Wilson

B. 1948, Daly, Kimul, Wadeye, Western Arnhem Land NT, Australia

BIOGRAPHY:

Master weaver, renowned painter and respected elder Regina Wilson plays a leading role in the small, peaceful community of Peppimenarti and its flourishing art centre, Durumu Arts. With her late husband, Harold Wilson, she was pivotal in the founding of this community after successful land rights campaigns in 1973. Peppimenarti is situated deep in the Daly River wetlands 300 kilometres south-west of Darwin. The large rocks and deep pools are a significant Dreaming site of her Ngan'gikurrungurr language group. The name Peppimenarti means large rock.

A long established tradition of weaving took Regina and fellow weavers to the Pacific Arts Festival in Noumea in 2000. This was the impetus that set the women to experimenting with paint. Also important, as Regina says, was the recognition of the need to record the material culture of her people in a more durable form. Using the same forms, colours and subjects of their fibre work, their large canvasses quickly emerged onto the contemporary art stage. Regina's exquisitely executed paintings soon appeared in major exhibitions and in 2003 she won the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award for her Syaw (fishnet) painting. In 2009 she was one of several artists chosen to represent Australia at the Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art. Her innovative approach to translating an ancient practice to a highly accomplished contemporary art form speaks of the infinite variability of the Dreaming Spirit and its ability to renew and sustain its people.

Now a grandmother herself, Regina teaches the young girls of Peppimenarti to weave just as she was taught from the age of ten. Once a week the young people gather for 'culture day'. "Its not just for fun'" Regina impresses, "we've got to keep our culture going." The act of weaving not only fosters relationship and sharing, it metaphorically implies the connectedness of the kinship system, the foundation of Aboriginal social relations. Her own success has been inspirational to others and contributed significantly to the strong sense of confidence and initiative within the community. Art making for Regina is just a natural part of her day but the funds it brings in further reinforces its possibilities as an avenue for the young who follow in her footsteps. As Regina says, maintaining these practices affirms and strengthens the spirit. It is Dadirri, the spring within, an inner calm and pervasive awareness that is derived from ancient Dreamtime beliefs.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

2014 Regina Pilawuk Wilson, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne

2005 Pilawuk Regina Wilson - New Works, Agathon Gallery, Parramatta.

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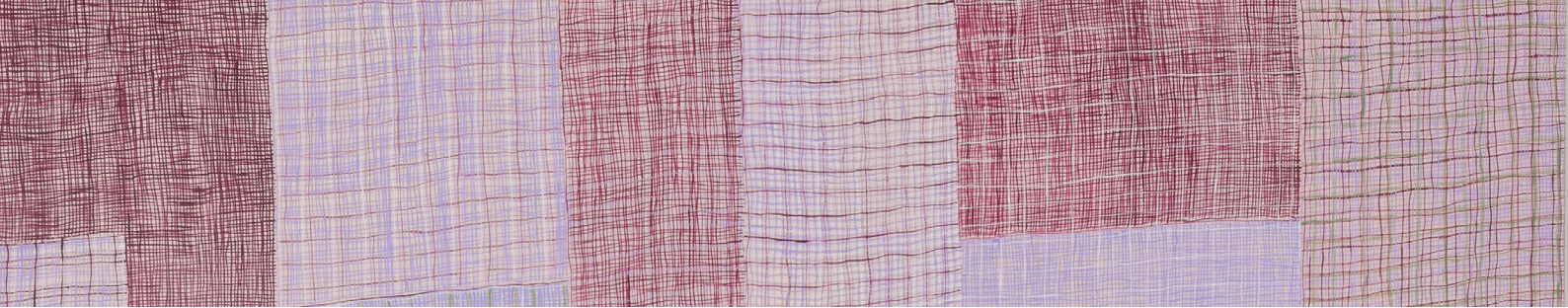


GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2015 Indigenous Art: Moving Backwards into the Future, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne.
- 2013 30th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, NT
- 2013 String theory, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 2013 Kate Challis RAKA Finalist, Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne
- 2013 TOGART Art Award Finalist, Chan Contemporary Space, Darwin
- 2013 ReGeneration – McColloch&McCulloch, Melbourne
- 2013 TIME – Poimena Gallery, Launceston Tasmania
- 2012 ANKAAA – Big Family II, The Cross Arts Projects, Sydney
- 2012 Le Point de Papunya – Beyond the Papunya dot, IDAIA, Musée Du Montparnasse, Paris, France
- 2012 Weaving Designs by Durrmu Arts, Nomad Art, Darwin
- 2012 Ancestral Modern: Australian Aboriginal Art from the Kaplan-Levi Collection, Seattle Art Museum, USA
- 2012 Murr-ma: Uncovering Aboriginal & Australian contemporary art, Michael Reid, Berlin, Germany
- 2012 Redlands Westpac Art Award, National Art School, Sydney
- 2011 The Women's Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2011 Out of Australia: prints and drawings from Sidney Nolan to Rover Thomas, British Museum, London, UK
- 2010 Shalom Gamarada, Shalom College, University of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2010 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin
- 2010 Important Aboriginal Art, Caruana & Reid Fine Art, Sydney
- 2010 Prints and Pandanus, Nomad Art, Darwin
- 2010 Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River
- 2009 3rd Moscow Biennale of Art, Moscow, Russia
- 2009 Floating Life: Contemporary Aboriginal Fibre Art, Gallery of Modern Art, Queensland Art Gallery
- 2009 Yewirr, Raft Artspace, Darwin
- 2009 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin
- 2009 Country Culture Community, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 2009 Southern Exchange, Hong Kong
- 2009 Shalom Gamarada, Shalom College, University of New South Wales
- 2008 Paintings from remote communities: Indigenous Australian art from the Laverty collection, Newcastle Regional Gallery, Newcastle, NSW
- 2008 Telstra National Indigenous and Torres-Strait Islander Award
- 2008 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin
- 2008 Shalom Gamarada, Shalom College, University of New South Wales
- 2008 Important Aboriginal Art, Caruana Reid, Sydney
- 2008 The Sum of Us, Michael Reid, Sydney
- 2008 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 2008 Ancient Culture. Modern Art, Club 21 Gallery, Four Seasons Hotel, Singapore
- 2007 Peppimenarti, Chalk Horse Gallery, Sydney
- 2006-07 Gifted: Contemporary Aboriginal Art: The Mollie Gowing Acquisition Fund, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

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- 2006 The second Shalom Gamarada Aboriginal Art Exhibition, Shalom College, University of New South Wales, Sydney; Dreaming Their Way: Australian Aboriginal Women Painters, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, USA
- 2005 22nd Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin; Peppimenarti, Span Galleries, presented by Artabout, Melbourne
- 2004 21st Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin; North by North-West: Contemporary Indigenous Art from the Queensland Art Gallery Collection, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
- 2003 20th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin.

COLLECTIONS:

The British Museum, UK
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Queensland Art Gallery
National Gallery of Victoria
Campbelltown Arts Centre
Levi-Kaplan Collection, Seattle, WA, USA
Colin and Elizabeth Lavery Collection, Sydney
Grant Samuel Collection, Sydney
Fife Capital Collection, Sydney
Barrie & Jude Lepley Collection, Perth
Parliament House Collection, Canberra

AWARDS:

2013 Finalist, Kate Challis RAKA Award, Ian Potter Museum of Art
2013 Finalist, Telstra National Indigenous and Torres-Strait Islander Award
2013 Finalist, Togart Arts Awards, Northern Territory
2009 Finalist, Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales
2008 Finalist, Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales
2008 Finalist, Telstra National Indigenous and Torres-Strait Islander Award
2003 General Painting, Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award

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