



WARINGARRI ABORIGINAL ARTS

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Peggy Griffiths

Bush Name	Marrdij Marrdijoroong
Age	68 years
SubsectionSkin	Nambijin
Language	Miriwoong
Country	Newry Station, N.T
Dreaming	Morning Star
Domicile	WA/NT border, Keep River National Park



Biography

Born in 1950 on her Country then Newry Station east of Kununurra, Griffiths grew up learning from her cultural leaders while working as a housemaid on the station. She experienced many of the tragedies affecting Kimberley Aboriginal people as a result of police and welfare. With deep green eyes reveal her mixed ancestry she narrowly escaped her own capture by being cleverly hidden by her mother.

At sixteen Peggy married her promised husband, Alan Griffiths and began working alongside him at Waringarri Aboriginal Arts in 1985, carving and painting boab nuts and artefacts. She progressed to ochre painting on canvas and working with limited edition prints. She is the first Indigenous artist to win the prestigious *Fremantle Print Award* in 1995. Today she is a highly respected elder and artist awarded the *Kimberley Art Award* in 2014 with works in national and international public and private collections. Her work was included in the prestigious *Art Stage Singapore 2015* and Griffiths was recently granted a Department of Culture and the Arts Fellowship to pursue her new interest in ceramics.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2011** "Peggy Griffiths" Seva Frangos Art Perth WA
- 2008** "West meets East - Peggy Griffiths" Seva Frangos Art Perth WA
- 2005** "Dreaming the Spinifex" Seva Frangos Art @ Span Galleries Melbourne VIC

Group Exhibitions

- 2017** Yirrib – Together, Peggy and Jan Griffiths, JamFactory, Adelaide, SA
- 2017** The Hadley Art Award, Hadley Orient Hotel, Hobart, TAS
- 2017** When the Sky Fell: Legacies from the 1967 Referendum, Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, Perth WA
- 2016** 2016 Community Invitation Art Award, City of Joondalup, Lakeside Shopping City, Joondalup WA
- 2016** Salon16, Charles Darwin University, Darwin N.T.
- 2016** "Birragamibging Merndam – Things Made on Paper", Tunbridge Gallery, Perth WA
- 2015** Art Stage Singapore Mossenson Galleries Singapore
- 2014** Belle Arti Prize, Chapman and Bailey Melbourne VIC
- 2014** In the Saddle, On the Wall, Australia wide travelling exhibition Kimberley Aboriginal Artists
- 2013** Traversing Borders; art from the Kimberley Queensland University of Technology Art Museum, Brisbane QLD
- 2013** The Calleen Art Award, Cowra Regional Art Gallery. NSW

- 2013** "Our Living Land" An Exhibition of Leading Artists from the East Kimberley, OFOTO ANART Gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2013** "Our Living Land" An Exhibition of Leading Artists from the East Kimberley, Salvo Hotel, Shanghai, China
- 2013** The 2013 Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of NSW
- 2012** "Sharing Difference on Common Ground" Bunbury Regional Art Galleries, Bunbury
- 2012** "Sharing Difference on Common Ground" The Cannery Arts Centre, Esperence
- 2012** "Sharing Difference on Common Ground" Geraldton Regional Art Gallery, Geraldton
- 2011** "Sharing Difference on Common Ground" Alcoa Mandurah Art Gallery, Mandurah
- 2010** " Sharing Difference on Common Ground 2" CCAE Darwin NT
- 2010** "Small Presents Big Presence - 8 Artists 100 Artworks" Seva Frangos Art Perth WA
- 2009** "Best of the Best" Framed Gallery Darwin NT
- 2009** "Sharing Difference on Common Ground" Holmes A Court Gallery Perth WA
- 2009** "Alan & Peggy Griffiths" Short Street Gallery Broome WA
- 2009** "First and Second Generation Artists from Waringarri Aboriginal Arts and Warmun Art Centre" Seva Frangos Art Perth WA
- 2008** "Kimberley Ink" Northern Editions Darwin NT
- 2008** "Celebration" Seva Frangos Art Perth WA
- 2008** "Kimberley Ink and Ochre" Wollongong University NSW
- 2006** "Belonging, Dancing, Walking" Seva Frangos Art @ Span Galleries Melbourne VIC
- 2005** "When Waringarri Came to Town" Woolloongabba Art Gallery Brisbane QLD
- 2004** "Waringarri 3 Women" Framed Gallery Darwin NT
- 2004** Kimberley Focus - Alan and Peggy Griffiths Perth International Arts Festival Perth WA
- 2003** "National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award" Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory Darwin NT
- 2003** "East Kimberley Art" Short St Gallery Broome WA
- 2002** "Heyson Prize" Adelaide SA
- 2002** " Love Your Work - 30 Year Exhibition" Fremantle Arts Centre Perth WA
- 2002** "Warrgebarenkoo" Fremantle Arts Centre Perth WA
- 2002** "Kimberley Ochre" Red Rock Art at Cullen Bay NT
- 2001** "Groundwork" Fremantle Arts Centre Perth WA
- 2000** "National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award" Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory Darwin NT
- 1999** "National Aboriginal; and Torres Strait Islander Art Award" Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory Darwin NT
- 1999** "East Kimberley Art Award" Kununurra WA
- 1997** "East Kimberley Art Award" Kununurra WA
- 1995** Fremantle Print Award Perth WA

Themes

Traditional Country of her father and grandfather

Collections

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES ISLANDER STUDIES COLLECTION

ARTBANK AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN EQUITY - KERRY STOKES COLLECTION

CHURCH GALLERY ART ANGELS

CITY OF SOUTH PERTH COLLECTION WA

EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY

FREMANTLE ARTS COLLECTION

GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Collections

HOLMES A COURT COLLECTION PERTH WA
KIMBERLEY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION COLLECTION
KLUGE RUHE ABORIGINALART COLLECTION VIRGINIA USA
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA
OCHRE HEALTH CENTRE - BUSH MEDECINE WALL
PARLIAMENT HOUSE COLLECTION CANBERRA ACT
PARLIAMENT HOUSE COLLECTION PERTH WA
ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL COLLECTION
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY COLLECTION SYDNEY NSW
UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG COLLECTION
WESFARMERS COLLECTION
ZHONGFU GROUP COLLECTION
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Bibliography

2008 "Walking Dancing Belonging" Documentary - Mitch Torres Original Pitjas
2009 "Sharing Difference on Common Ground" Exhibition Catalogue
2012 "A Working Life from Station to Studio" Documentary - Beth Neate ABC Open
2013 "Our Living Land" Exhibition Catalogue

Awards

2017 Finalist – The Hadley Art Award, Hobart TAS
2016 Fellowship – Department of Culture and the Arts, WA
2016 Finalist, Community Invitation Art Award, City of Joondalup, Joondalup WA
2014 Kimberley Art Award
1995 Fremantle Print Award