



WARINGARRI ABORIGINAL ARTS

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BEN Galmirrl WARD

Bush Name	Galmirrl
DoB	1/01/1949
SubsectionSkin	Jalyirri
Language	Miriwoong
Country	Bilbiljing
Dreaming	Tawny Frog Mouth
Domicile	Ngunulum - Cockatoo Springs, WA



Biography

"I was born at Argyle Downs Station in 1949 at Behn Creek, hence by name. My family all worked on the station and we lived there until I was 10. We walked from Argyle Station to Ivanhoe so I could go to school at the Kimberley Research Station. My parents and extended family gained work at Ivanhoe Station. My stepfather, Jeff Chanarma, taught me everything I know. He took me on as his own son. My real father was a stockman at Argyle Downs Station, he was half Miriwoong and half Afghan and in those days he couldn't claim me as his own."

After Ben left school he worked as a mechanic and it was the shop owner's wife who taught Ben how to paint in watercolour. In 1964 he worked on Carlton Station mustering cattle then later studied nursing to take a position at the Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service.

A great speaker, Ben was strongly involved in land rights and community issues. He won a landmark native title case for Dingo Springs in 1998. He worked for the Aboriginal Development Commission and officially opened Waringarri Aboriginal Arts in the 1984. It wasn't until 2011 after a serious car accident, that Ben began painting regularly and carving at the centre. His painting practice focuses on depicting his Country and memories of when he was a young man mustering cattle, from his own unique perspective. He employs triangular designs of juxtaposed coloured ochre to depict the rivers, mountains and ranges of his Country while also commenting on issues that are close to his heart. In 2015 he was the first Indigenous artist to win the prestigious John Fries Award for emerging artists.

Ben has held the position as Chairperson on the Board of Directors at Waringarri Aboriginal Arts in 2012-13, 2015-2017 & 2019-2021.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2017** Mystery Paintings, Mossensons Galleries, Subiaco, Perth WA
- 2016** Ben Ward, Nerrany-ngeng (mystery) paintings, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco, Perth WA

Group Exhibitions

- 2022** Jalyirri, Jabija, Jangala and Jawalyi: Four men together, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco WA
- 2022** Wake Up – A First Nations Collaboration, King & Wood Mallesons, Melbourne VIC
- 2021** Berrdalngtha Woorlang – Strong Stories, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco WA
- 2021** The Alternative Archive, John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Bentley WA
- 2021** National Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander Awards, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin N.T.
- 2020** National Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander Awards, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin N.T.
- 2019** Artist in Residency, King & Wood Mallesons, Melbourne VIC
- 2019** The Alternative Archive: Our Legacy II, curated by Dora Griffiths, Dawang Gallery, Waringarri Arts, Kununurra WA,
- 2019** Hadleys Art Prize, Hadley Orient Hotel, Hobart TAS
- 2019** Water Talk, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco, Perth WA

- 2018** Hedland Awards Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland WA
- 2018** Paddington Art Award, Menzies Art Brands, Woolhara, NSW
- 2018** Dream Mine Time, FORM, Perth WA
- 2018** Artist in Residency, King & Wood Mallesons, Perth, WA
- 2017** Hedland Awards, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland WA
- 2016** Salon16, Charles Darwin University, Darwin NT
- 2016** Cossack Art Award, City of Karratha, Cossack, WA
- 2015** A Jesters Whisper, John Fries Award 2015, UNSW Galleries, UNSW Art and Design, Sydney NSW
- 2014** Finalist Kimberley Art Prize, Shire of Derby, Derby WA
- 2013** Traversing Borders. Art from the Kimberley, Queensland University of Technology Art Museum, Brisbane QLD
- 2013** "Our Living Land" An Exhibition of Leading Artists from the East Kimberley, Salvo Hotel, Shanghai, China
- 2013** "Our Living Land" An Exhibition of Leading Artists from the East Kimberley, OFOTO ANART Gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2013** Revealed - Emerging Aboriginal Artists from Western Australia, Gallery Central, Perth WA

Collections

ARTBANK

ART GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

KERRY STOKES COLLECTION

NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA COLLECTION, CANBERRA

PARLIAMENT HOUSE COLLECTION CANBERRA ACT

ST JOHN OF GOD HOSPITAL MURDOCH, WA

SUPREME COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WESFARMERS COLLECTION (BOAB 100) 2014

ZHONGFU GOUP COLLECTION

Bibliography

- 2013** "Our Living Land" Exhibition Catalogue

Awards

- 2015** John Fries Award

Commissions

- 2021** King & Wood Mallesons, First Nations Fellowship logo, Melbourne VIC
- 2020** King & Wood Mallesons, Melbourne Offices, Melbourne VIC
- 2013** Kununurra Courthouse, Kununurra WA