

TIGER PALPATJA

CV

Tiger started painting in 2004, less than eight years before his death. His work explores themes of a creation story of the Wanampi, a mythical water snake that created the country at his birthplace Piltati. Tiger's unique paintings have a bright and striking palette making him distinct as a contemporary Indigenous Artist.

Born: Piltati, Nyapari, South Australia, c. 1920
Region: Amaṭa, South Australia

SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 2006 *Snake Dreamings from the Desert*, Birrung Gallery, Sydney
- 2008 'Wanampi Tjukurpa' Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS:

- 2017 *Sharing Country*, Olsen Gruin Gallery, New York
- 2012 *Uwankara kurunpa kutju-tjara: Our People One Soul*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2011 *Ngura wiru mulapa (Beautiful Country)*, Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney
- 2011 *Closing the Gap*, Marshall Arts, Adelaide
- 2011 *Ngayulu Witini ngayuku mamaku tjukurpa, ngayulu witini ngayuku ngunytjuku tjukurpa (I hold my mothers story I hold my father's story)*, RAFT Artspace, Alice Springs -
- 2011 *Desert Mob*, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2011 *Tjala Arts*, Chapman Gallery, Canberra
- 2011 *Mens Work Tjala Arts*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2011 *Nganampa Kampatjanka Uungutja: Beneath our Canvas*, Outstation Gallery, Darwin
- 2010 *Nganampa Tjukurpa Kunpu: Our Strong Stories*, Aboriginal & Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 *APY NPY Exhibition*, Marshall Arts, Adelaide
- 2009 *Desert Mob*, Araluen, Alice Springs
- 2009 *Our Mob*, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide
- 2009 *Alawara – Side by Side*. Ninuku Arts, Tjungu Palya and Tjala Arts Emerging Artists Outstation Gallery, Darwin
- 2009 *Making Tracks*, Tandanya, Adelaide
- 2009 *Master Stroke*, Randell Lane, Perth
- 2009 *Tjala Arts*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2009 *New Work Tjala Art*, Chapman Gallery, ACT
- 2009 *Tjala Arts, Randell Lane*, Perth
- 2009 *Tjala Arts*, Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney
- 2008 *Tjukurpa nganampa kunpu kanyintjaku: Stories that keep culture strong*, Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney
- 2008 *New Work: Tjala Arts*, Randell Lane Gallery, Perth
- 2008 *Tjala Arts Men*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2007 *Nyangatja nganampa tjukurpa: These are our stories*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2006 *Utulu kuwaritja Amatala Nguru - New mob from Amata*, Red Dot Gallery, Singapore
- 2006 *Tjala Arts*, Kluge-Ruhe, University of Virginia, USA
- 2006 *Tjala Arts: SALA Festival*, Art Images, Adelaide
- 2005 *Minymaku Arts: SALA Festival*, Art Images, Adelaide
- 2005 *Waku Kunpu: Strong Work*, Bandigan Art, Sydney
- 2005 *Amata watiku tkukurpa wiru: Good stories from Amata men*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne

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AWARDS:

2010 Finalist, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
2009 Finalist, Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards
2006 Finalist, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
2005 Finalist, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award

COLLECTIONS:

Aarulen Gallery Collection
Australian National University collection
Charles Darwin University Collection
Flinders University Art Museum: Peter Ballie Collection
Lagerberg-Swift Collection
Marhsall Collection
National Gallery of Australia
National Gallery of Victoria
The Merenda Collection

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Serpentine course of a desert life, *The Australian*, 20 June 2011
Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards, Art Gallery of WA Press, 2011
Colours of an Arid Landscape, *The Australian*, 13 July 2010
Painting the Song of the Land, *The Australian*, 29th October 2009
Amazing who you meet in a gallery, *The Age*, 2 June 2009
Decipher Creation Myths, Blow Glass at Singapore Art Galleries, Bloomberg News, 6 March 2008
Tjukurpa Pulkatjara: The Power of Law, Wakefield Press, 2008
Tiger, Painting Bright, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 April 2006
The Desert's Tainted Brush, *The Australian*, 11 September 2006

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TIGER PALPATJA

Tiger was born around 1920 (although the exact year is not known). He was born in the bush, at Piltati Rockhole, which is close to what is now Nyapari in North-West South Australia. Tiger's family were Pitjantjatjara, and lived a traditional, nomadic life in the bushland around Piltati. When he was a teenager, Tiger's family settled at Ernabella, which at the time was a Presbyterian mission and a sheep station. He grew up on the mission, and learned to speak English during school and eventually got married to a woman named Nyalapanytja where they lived in Ernabella for many years. Tiger worked on the station, shearing sheep and building fences.

Tiger started painting in September 2004, less than eight years before his death. He had never painted before this, and was better known for woodworking, especially making spears. Although he only began painting in his final years, his work quickly became highly recognised by critics and sought after. In 2005, Tiger was a finalist for the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award. He became a finalist in 2006, 2009, 2010 and 2011, but never won. He was also a finalist in the Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards in 2009, and again in 2011. Tiger mainly painted for Tjala Arts, but from 2009 he also began working for Tjungu Palya in nearby Nyapari.

Tiger's painted sacred stories from his Dreaming mostly represent his birthplace, Piltati. This place being associated with a creation story involving two sisters and their husbands, who change themselves into Wanampi, a giant water snake. According to Tiger's Dreaming, the Wanampi are his family's ancestors who created the country around Piltati. The snake's form is recurring in many of his works, usually painted in several different colours. His works are known for their bright colours, in contrast to other artists of the Western Desert who use a more traditional, natural, ochre colour palette. Tiger's depiction of his dreaming with the vibrant and distinct palette he employs creates a new language and connects past with present.

Tiger died on 16 April 2012, over the age of 90. While he was alive, his paintings were exhibited in several major cities, including Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Fremantle and Perth. His works are now permanently held in galleries in most of these cities, namely the National Gallery of Australia and the Art Gallery of Australia. He also has had work exhibited overseas in the United States and South-East Asia. He also had work exhibited overseas: at the University of Virginia in 2006, and in Singapore in 2008. His paintings are held in the National Gallery of Victoria, the National Gallery of Australia, the Australian National University, Charles Darwin University, Flinders University, and the Art Gallery of New South Wales.