



Short St. Gallery



Benita Clements

Born 1980
Language Group Western Aranda
Region Alice Springs

Mona Lisa (Benita) is the daughter of artist Gwenda Namatjira (deceased) and great granddaughter of Albert Namatjira. She paints her country both in dot paintings depictions and watercolours. Mona Lisa also paints figurative images of her family and their learning of the watercolour painting tradition. She often comes to her Art Centre to learn from the elders and get inspiration from old photographs and stories.

In her own words:

"I paint the current and old Namatjira Family and the old days in Hermannsburg. For example, I painted my uncle Kevin Namatjira (deceased) while he painted his family in Hermannsburg at the Cafe, at the Hermannsburg Precinct. I also painted Lenie Namatjira (deceased), my aunty teaching her grandchildren Carissa and Kiara Malthouse at Hermannsburg how to paint in watercolours. I paint stories that people have told me about or that I see in pictures from the old days. For instance, how water was sourced from the creek: Western Aranda people were getting water for their families in buckets. I paint people and children from the community painting out bush near the Finke River. I always paint my Country, the West MacDonnell ranges and Mt Hermannsburg in the background or my paintings."

Benita Clements

Group Exhibitions

- 2023 Arrpmamintja | Creation from the beginning, Museum of Economic Botany, Tamaranthi Festival of Contemporary Arts, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 2023 Tjortjarinja | Belonging, Ngungungula Regional Gallery Southern Highlands, Bowral, NSW



Short St. Gallery

- 2023 Kangkwerrama | Respectfully Take Notice, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2022 Kupriya Kwatja Etatha, Tamaranthi Festival of Contemporary Arts, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 2022 Clay on Country, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2022 One Too Many, Cross Arts Projects, Sydney, NSW
- 2021 Arrkurla nakala, kurunga lyaata-ntama (Before and Now), South Australian Museum, Adelaide, SA
- 2019 Tjina Numa-ka, Pmarra Num-kanha, lta lta Num-kanha (Our family, our country, our legacy), Flinders University Art Museum, Adelaide, SA
- 2019 Pmarra Numa-Kananhala untha-lapp-urma (Walking through country), Hazelhurst Art Centre, Sydney, NSW
- 2018 A Lightness of Spirit is the Measure of Happiness, Australian Centre for Contemporary Arts, Melbourne, VIC
- 2017 What if this photograph is by Albert Namatjira?, Tamaranthi Festival of Contemporary Arts, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
- 2017 The extractive frontier: mining for art, Castlemaine, VIC UNALIENABLE, Sullivan + Strumpf Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2016 The Namatjira Story on Stage and on Country, 107 Projects, Sydney, NSW
- 2016 Abducted!, Alcaston Gallery, VIC

Collections

Art Gallery of South Australia (AGSA), SA
Queensland Art Gallery Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, QLD
National Gallery Victoria (NGV), VIC , 2016 National Museum Australia (NMA), ACT
Flinders University Art Museum (FUMA), Adelaide SA
Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
Powerhouse Museum Sydney NSW

Awards

Burnie Print Prize 2019 (Shortlisted), Tasmania