When you touch a paintbrush, it makes you bigger,’ reckons Vincent Namatjira. ‘It makes you gigantic, really.’ As the great-grandson of Albert Namatjira, whose 10 new paintings at Art Basel Miami Beach, were in his about to become enormous.

Namatjira, 35, paints vivid portraits of world leaders, often featuring himself in the frame — shaking hands with Donald Trump, giving Kim Jong-un a buzz cut, waving from an old pick-up truck as he drives a shirtless Putin on horseback. Appropriating popular newsread imagery, his blocky figures on flattened backgrounds become iconic of power and wealth.

Namatjira returned from the Iwantja Arts centre in the remote community of Indulkana in the Anangu Pitjantjawatja (APY) lands in the far north-west of South Australia.

“When I see politicians, world leaders, royalty and other powers on the news, I see this huge disconnect between the world and the day-to-day life in a remote Aboriginal community,’ he said in a recent interview with Australian Life & Leisure.

‘A lot of my recent paintings are about the reversal of power structures,’ he says.

To get to Namatjira’s studio in the far north-west of South Australia, which is on the family’s farm, you must drive five hours north to Alice Springs, then fly east to Brisbane, then on to Los Angeles and finally to Florida. This is the first time he’s left Australia.

“My great-grandfather went to London and even met the Queen,” he says. “I’m looking at this trip that way.”

Sydney Namatjira’s Western art-influenced watercolours of outback landscapes made him a household name from the 1940s on. He was the first Aboriginal person to be granted Australian citizenship.

Despite his star status and oeuvre of more than 2000 paintings, his final years were tumultuous and he died in near poverty, in 1959.

Vincent was born in Alice Springs and spent his early years in the old Lutheran mission town of Hermannsburg. After his mother’s death when he was seven, he lived in foster homes around Perth. It was only when he returned to live with extended family in the desert, aged 18, that he learnt about his esteemed forebear.

“I was kind of shocked for the time to learn that I was related to a famous Indigenous landscape artist,” he recalls. “I became fascinated by Albert’s story and by his work, but I didn’t immediately take up a paintbrush.”

It was his partner, the painter Natasha Pongor, who introduced him to art. “At that time I was pretty much a stay-at-home dad, looking after our three girls while Vincent Namatjira in his studio in the APY lands. A lot of my recent paintings are about the reversal of power structures.”

On his first trip abroad, Vincent Namatjira is exhibiting at Art Basel Miami Beach, writes Stephen Todd.

“Bassike already had a loyal customer base in the southern – and each month drops new stockists such as Lane Crawford, Hong Kong. ‘Consumers have an insatiable hunger for new looks and concepts, creating a unique experience no matter the location.’

The transformation began 15 years ago when developers Michael and Cal Malady decided to leverage Brisbane’s burgeoning food culture to open the James Street Market, a savvy roster of some of the city’s finest providers.

This hangar-like complex designed by Cox Rayner Architects (with a young Ingrid Richards as project architect) soon spawned specialty shops and beverage venues, often in neglected redeveloped buildings.

James Street, once a downdown light industrial zone is now buzz with slick new cafes and bars. The foot traffic is constantly well-heeled, peppered with tribes who lunch (in drawing shorts and baggy tees evoking prototypical Bassike attire.)

The Calile, Hotel Swimming pool at the Calile, Photos: Savannah Van Der Neat, Sean Fennessy

Chain Clockwise from main: Bassike’s store on James Street; the fashion brand designed staff uniforms with Sydney design firm Richards Spence. The Calile Hotel; swimming pool at The Calile, Photos: Savannah Van Der Neat, Sean Fennessy

Bassike’s boutique reflects the new chic aesthetic on Brisbane’s James Street, writes Stephen Todd.

Clockwise from main: Bassike’s store on James Street; the fashion brand designed staff uniforms with Sydney design firm Richards Spence. The Calile Hotel; swimming pool at The Calile, Photos: Savannah Van Der Neat, Sean Fennessy