

## VINCENT NAMATJIRA

### SYDNEY CONTEMPORARY 2022

Vincent Namatjira's imagery calls on Australia's colonial history, with recurring references to Captain Cook, the British Royal family, political leaders and on contemporary aspects of Indigenous life. Infusing history with a sharp eye and dry wit, his works highlight the ongoing impact that colonial expansion and political motivations have on the lives of Indigenous Australians, particularly people in remote communities. Painting influential figures from his studio in remote Australia also brings those people closer to his own life, reinforcing their far-reaching impact on everyday existence around the globe. The political is always personal.

Namatjira straddles and overlaps historical, traditional, and contemporary life in his images. This tension syncs with his own existence - physically based in remote Australia yet immersed in contemporary culture as a member of a more global Generation Y. His observational works also chart his personal history and his investigatory search for identity. Losing his mother at seven, Namatjira and his sister were placed into the welfare system; it was only as an adult he returned to the traditional lands in South Australia.

'I'm interested in people and their stories, and how someone from today is connected with the past. I like to paint people who are famous, and paint them here in my community, painting them in the desert puts them into an unexpected place. Having just a little bit of humour can take the power out of a serious situation, whether something is happening to you right now, or it happened long ago – it lets you be in a little bit of control again, you can get a bit of cheeky revenge. A sense of humour and a paintbrush is a powerful thing.' (Vincent Namatjira, 2016)

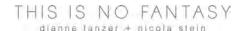
Namatjira paints confident fragments of colour into his canvas, slowly building a narrative within his paintings. There is dynamic naïve strength to his work, a courage and straight-talking defiance in his application of paint. His broad brush strokes are evocative of a personality or situation, rather than seeking a true likeness, creating works that are simultaneously engaging yet estranged. From an otherwise almost invisible position in Australian society, Vincent endeavours to elicit a deeper engagement with his respective creative traditions.

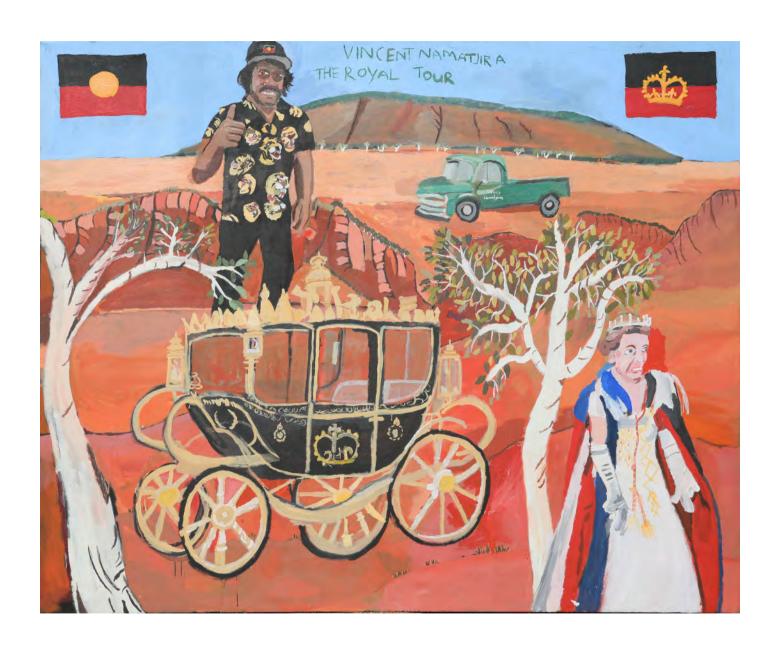
In 2020 Namatjira was the recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) 2020, in honour of his contribution to Indigenous visual arts and was the first Indigenous artist to win the Archibald Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, for his portrait of footballer and activist, Adam Goodes.

Namatjira was awarded the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney's Circular Quay Foyer Wall Commission in 2021. He won the \$100,000 Ramsay Prize 2019 at the Art Gallery of South Australia and has been a finalist in the Archibald Prize over a number of years. In 2018 Namatijra received Highly Commended in the Archibald Prize and was an invited finalist in the UQ Museum National Self Portrait Prize and Art Gallery of South Australia's Ramsay Prize 2017. He was a finalist in the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013 and the John Fries Memorial Award 2015, 2013.

Namatjira exhibited at Art Basel Hong Kong 2019, Art Basel Miami Beach 2018 and Art London 2016. In 2018 Namatjira's work was included in Just Not Australian, a major exhibition at Artspace Sydney and touring nationally. Recently his work has been included in the Asia Pacific Triennial at the Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane and exhibitions at the Australian Centre of Contemporary Art, Melbourne; Hazelhurst Gallery and Warrnambool Art Gallery, Victoria. Previous institutional exhibitions include Indigenous Australia: Enduring Civilisation at the British Museum, London, 2015; TarraWarra Biennial, TarraWarra Museum of Art 2016; Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, Art Gallery of South Australia 2017 & 2018.

Namatjira's work is held in significant institutional collections including the British Museum, National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Art Gallery of South Australia, Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art.





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VINCENT NAMATJIRA
The Royal Tour (Jubilee Balcony), 2022
122 x 198cm
Acrylic on Linen
\$110,000







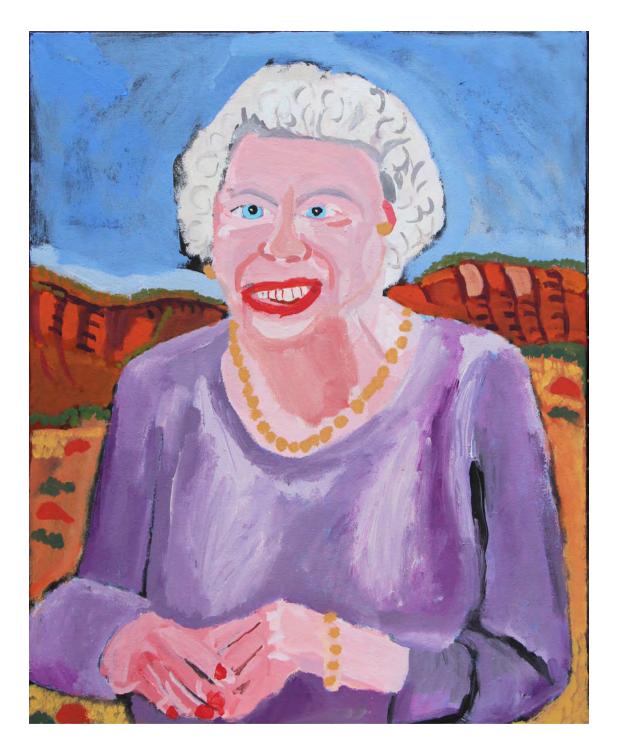






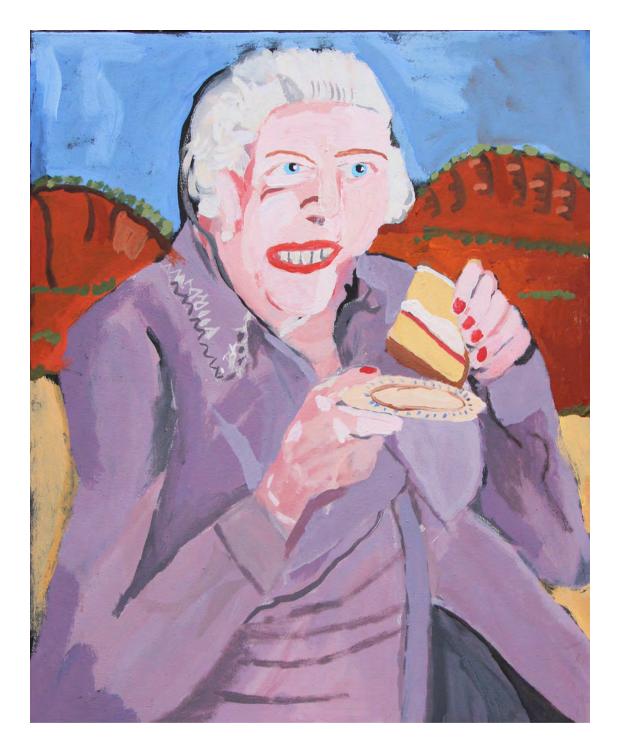
















# VINCENT NAMATJIRA

Born Alice Springs, Northern Territory Lives and works in Indulkana. South Australia

#### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022

2022	Melbourne Art Fair, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne
2020	The Royal Tour, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne
2019	Coming To America, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne
2018	Positions, Art Basel Miami Beach 2018, Miami
	Legends, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne
2017	Sydney Contemporary, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Sydney
2016	THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne
SELECT	ED GROUP EXHIBITIONS
2022	Iwantja Rock n Roll: Vincent Namatjira, Kaylene Whiskey, Tiger Yaltang

Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Sydney

#### gki, Fort Gansevoort, New York UN/LEARNING AUSTRALIA, Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA), South Korea WHO ARE YOU: Australian Portraiture, National Portrait Gallery, ACT (touring) Going Out Bush: Illuminate Adelaide, South Australia Who Are You: Australian Portraiture, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Victoria Sulman Prize Finalist Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney Archibald Prize Finalist Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, touring 2021 Just Not Australian, touring exhibition Australian, touring exhibition Spirits, Popstars and Royals, Fort Gansevoort, New York Flow: Stories of River, Earth and Sky, Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton 2020 Just Not Australian, touring regional exhibition Eight Days in Kamay. State Library of New South Wales. Sydney Ramsay Art Prize Finalist Exhibition (Winner), Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide 2019 Archibald Prize Finalist Exhibition, Art Gallery New South Wales, Sydney Just Not Australian, Artspace, Sydney Art Basel Hong Kong, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Hong Kong Celebrating Culture: Contemporary Indigenous Art, Glen Eira Gallery, Melbourne The 9th Australia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art 2018 Weapons for the Soldier, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery Australian War Memorial, Canberra A Lightness of Spirit is the Measure of Happiness, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne Archibald Prize Finalist Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales Archibald Prize Finalist Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales 2017 The Ramsay Art Prize Finalist Exhibition, Art Gallery of South Australia The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum & Art Gallery Northern Territory NAIDOC Week, Adelaide Town Hall, South Australia



## VINCENT NAMATJIRA CV

UQ Museum National Self Portrait Prize, University of Queensland, Brisbane

2016	Art16 Art Fair, London, United Kingdom
	TarraWarra Biennial 2016: Endless Circulation, TarraWarra Museum of Art, Victoria
	Nganampa Kililpil: Our Stars, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, New South Wales
2015	Indigenous Australia: Enduring Civilisation, British Museum, London, United Kingdom
	Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, Art Gallery of South Austra
	10th Mildura Palimpsest Biennale, Mildura, Victoria
	Sydney Contemporary, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Sydney
	Rising Stars, Outstation, Darwin, Northern Territory
	Desert Mob, Alice Springs, Northern Territory
2014	Alberts Story, Marshall Arts, Adelaide, South Australia
	Desert Mob, Alice Springs, Northern Territory
	Adelaide Airport, on behalf of Marshall Arts, Adelaide
	Aboriginal Art from the Eastern APY Lands, Kelch Gallery, Freiburg, Germany
2013	Desert Mob, Alice Springs, Northern Territory Outstation, Darwin
2010	Iwantja Paintings, Japingka Gallery, Perth, Western Australia
	APY Lands Survey Exhibition, Outstation, Darwin Northern Territory
	Our Mob, Anita Chan Lai Ling Gallery, Hong Kong
	Art Mob, Hobart, Tasmania
	Vincent Namatjira, Marshall Arts, Adelaide, South Australia
	Salon des Refuse, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, Northern Territory
	Mossenson Gallery, Melbourne
2012	Iwantja Arts, Mossenson Gallery, Perth, Western Australia
2011	Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, Northern Territory
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AWARD	S   GRANTS   RESIDENCIES
2022	Finalist, The Archibald Prize, Sydney Finalist, The Sulman Prize, Sydney
2021	Recipient, Circular Quay Foyer Wall Commission, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney
2020	Medal of Order of Australia (OAM), for contribution to Indigenous Arts
	Winner, The Archibald Prize, Sydney
	Recipient, Circular Quay Foyer Wall Commission, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney
2019	Winner, The \$100,000 Ramsay Art Prize, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
	Finalist, The Archibald Prize, Sydney
2018	Highly Commended, The Archibald Prize, Sydney
	Finalist, The Alice Art Prize, Alice Springs
2017	Finalist, The Archibald Prize, Sydney
	Finalist, Ramsay Art Prize, Adelaide
	Finalist, Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards, Northern Territory
	Invited entrant, Q Museum National Self Portrait Prize
2016	Finalist, Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards, Northern Territory

Finalist, John Fries Memorial Prize – shortlisted, Sydney

2015





### SYDNEY CONTEMPORARY 2022

Lives: Milikapiti, Melville Island, Australia

Skin: Takaringuwi (Scaly Mullet)

Country: Andranangoo (Goose Greek)

Dance: Tartuwali (Shark)

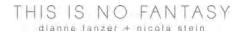
Johnathon World Peace Bush is an artist, poet and human rights advocate. His gestural compositions project across space and boldly announce the authority of the artist's hand. Bush's works draw on his background as an Indigenous Tiwi Islander based on remote, traditional lands yet immersed in contemporary culture.

'For both my Tiwi people and my global family I want culture to be strong. Without culture we are all lost...I hold the Western and Aboriginal law in my hands for all mankind to be equal. I have to balance both laws. I have been through many obstacles in order for my words to be heard. I hope my artwork gives a glimpse into my strong beliefs of a want for world peace and equality for all humankind: This time is your time. It is time for you to talk big. You need to fight to keep culture alive. I remember my older male ancestors saying this to me. They have all passed away now, but they have left work for me to do...it is important to link the past to the present for healthy future regeneration. Like a chain reaction. To fix up a family tree you have to go down to the roots and into the past. Love is the fruit of good family. I work for a future that is bright and where everything will be alright.'

Johnathon World Peace Bush

Painted in natural pigments sourced from Melville Island, Bush's paintings are in the three colours of Tiwi land - kurrujupuni, arrikininga, yarringa (white, yellow, red). Bush's works re-imagine old anthropological images of Tiwi people and Catholic figureheads covered in Tiwi body paint design and ceremonial ornaments. Various accounts of his family's historical encounters with colonial forces also feature. One of the dominant colonial experiences for the Tiwi came with the establishment of a Catholic mission on Bathurst Island in 1911; This confluence reflects on contemporary Indigenous identity. Applying Western religious imagery alongside a Tiwi visual language that predates the Renaissance, Bush makes work that questions mainstream assumptions.

'We are fighting for recognition for our existence in our past, our present and the future. From the lesson of old to the lesson of new. There are paintings of my people fighting against the foreign power. My people had spears. They had rifles. Using powerful things to try to overpower my people in my native land.' Johnathon World Peace Bush





Moses parting the Red Ochre Wings (Sea), 2022 locally sourced earth pigments on linen 150 x 150cm, framed \$11,500





JOHNATHON WORLD PEACE BUSH Rio Jesus and the Last Supper, 2021 locally sourced natural earth pigments on linen 120 x 200 cm, framed \$12,500







JOHNATHON WORLD PEACE BUSH
Pope Julius, 2021
locally sourced natural earth pigments on linen
150 x 120cm, framed
NFS



JOHNATHON WORLD PEACE BUSH Mother and Child, 2022 Locally sourced earth pigments on linen 120 x 120cm, framed \$8,800





JOHNATHON WORLD PEACE BUSH
Pope Innocent, 2021
locally sourced natural ochres on linen
150 x 120cm, framed
\$9,900



JOHNATHON WORLD PEACE BUSH Seven Tiwi Angels, 2022 locally sourced earth pigments on linen 150 x 120cm, framed \$9,900



Region: Milikapiti, Melville Island, Northern Territory AUS Country: Andranganoo / Paluwiyanga (Goose Creek)

Language: Tiwi

Skin Group: Takaringuiw (Scaly Mullet)

Dance: Tartuwali (Shark)

#### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023 New Works, THIS IS NO FANTASY (Upcoming)
 2022 Sydney Contemporary, THIS IS NO FANTASY
 2022 Melbourne Art Fair, Jilamara Arts

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022	WHO ARE YOU: Australian Portraiture, National Portrait Gallery, ACT (touring) Finalist, Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, NSW
2021	15 Artists 2022, Redcliffe Art Gallery, Moreton Bay, QLD UN/LEARNING AUSTRALIA, Artspace, Sydney and Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA), South Korea Tiwi Artists, Tiwi Papers, Tarnanthi at Art Gallery South Australia, Adelaide, SA 52 Artists, 52 Actions, Artspace, Sydney, NSW
	Absolut Art Project, Brook Andrew Studio, online
	Salon de Refuses, Salon Art Projects, Darwin, NT Jilamara, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
	Yirrinkirripwoja, Tiwi Exhibition, Double Tree Hilton, Darwin, NT
2020	TIWI, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
	Groundswell, NCCA, Darwin, NT
	Yalininga Ngaripantingija Ngirramini, Aboriginal Signature Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
	Jilamara: circles, dots, lines, Artspace, Sydney, NSW
2019	Awurankini Jana Yimaninmarrampilya Ningani, Karluwu Ngini Ngawula Ngima, Darwin, NT Tarnanthi at Art Gallery South Australia, Adelaide, SA
2019	Tiwi Jilamara, Queenscliff Gallery and Workshop, Queenscliff, VIC
	Turnuwa amintiya kirijipuni, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
	Pupini Jilamara Nginingwula (Our Beautiful Paintings), Double Tree Hilton, NT
2018	Tarnanthi at Art Gallery South Australia, Adelaide, SA
	One Island One Side, Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Belgium
	Jilamara and Munupi Arts, Chapman & Bailey, Melbourne, VIC
	Nginingawula Awirankini Waki (Our New Work), Double Tree Hilton, Darwin, NT
2017	Ngini Parlingarri Amintiya Ningani (held in conjunction with Print Council of Australia), Melbourne, VIC
2017	Ngini Parlingarri Amintiya Ningani, Nomad Art Gallery, Darwin, NT
0046	Yirringinkiri Pwoja, Double Tree Hilton, Darwin, NT
2016	Ngawila Jilamara, Double Tree Hilton, Darwin, NT



#### COLLECTIONS

Art Gallery of New South Wales National Gallery of Victoria Art Gallery of South Australia Artbank Kluge-Ruhe Art Museum, Virginia, USA Macquarie Group Collection University of Melbourne

### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

2021 UN/LEARNING AUSTRALIA, exhibition publication, Artspace and SeMA, South Korea

2021 52 Artists, 52 Actions, Artspace: Sydney

2020 Ryan Judith (ed.), TIWI: Art s & Artists, exhibition publication, National Gallery of Victoria



### THIS IS NO FANTASY

dianne lanzer + nicola stein

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# VINCENT NAMATJIRA

Finalist, Western Australian Indigenous Art Award, Perth

2014 Finalist, Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards, Northern Territory
Finalist, Alice Art Prize, Alice Springs

2013 Finalist, Outback Art Award, Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery
Finalist, John Fries Memorial Prize
Finalist, Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards, Northern Territory

### **COLLECTIONS**

British Museum
Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection
National Gallery of Victoria
Art Gallery of New South Wales
Art Gallery of South Australia
Art Gallery of Western Australia
Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art
Art Gallery of Ballarat
Shepparton Art Museum
University of Queensland Art Museum
Flinders University Art Museum
Berndt Museum
University of Western Australia
Artbank

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