

JOHNATHON
WORLD
PEACE
BUSH



THIS IS NO FANTASY
dianne tanzer + nicola stein

JOHNATHON WORLD PEACE BUSH

Lives: Milikapiti, Melville Island, Australia
Skin Group/Tribe: Takaringuwi (Scaly Mullet)
Country: Paluwiyanga / Andranganoo (Goose Creek)
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.

Painted in natural pigments sourced from Melville Island, Bush's paintings are in the three colours of Tiwi land - kurrujupuni, arrikinga, 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.

Johnathon World Peace Bush is attracting a strong institutional and collector following for his unique painting style, political engagement and bold lyrics. In 2023 Bush was honoured with his first solo institutional exhibition at Linden New Art, Melbourne curated by its Director, Dr Vincent Alessi, and showcased new work at the Armory Show, New York. Other recent exhibitions include 'UNLEARNING AUSTRALIA', Seoul Museum of Art (SeMA), South Korea 2022; Sydney Contemporary 2022; Melbourne Art Fair 2022; 'Tiwi Exhibition', National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne 2021; '52 Artists, 52 Actions', Artspace, Sydney 2021; 'Groundswell', Northern Centre for Contemporary Art, Darwin, 2020; 'Yalininga Ngaritpantingija Ngirramini', Aboriginal Signature Gallery, Brussels, Belgium 2020; 'Tarnanthi', Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide 2019.

Bush was a finalist in the 2023 Sir John Sulman Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the King Wood and Mallesons First Nations Art Award, the Fisher's Ghost Art Award, and the Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Art 2023. In 2022 Bush was a finalist in 15 Artists at Redcliffe Gallery, Queensland and the Mosman Art Prize, Sydney. In 2023 Bush was selected to take part in the NGV x Country Road First Nations Commission under the mentorship of Pedro Wonaeamirri.

Bush's work is held in collections including Kluge-Ruhe Art Museum, Virginia, USA, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; and Art Gallery of South Australia.

'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

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Johnathon World Peace Bush

THIS IS NO FANTASY, Installation View

Photo: Simon Strong



JOHNATHON WORLD PEACE BUSH

Saint Matthew, 2023

locally sourced earth pigments / ochres on linen

150 x 200cm

\$18,000



JOHNATHON WORLD PEACE BUSH

El Greco (Saint Peter), 2023

locally sourced earth pigments / ochres on linen

120 x 120 cm

\$15,000



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Photo: Simon Strong



JOHNATHON WORLD PEACE BUSH

The Last Supper and the Big Breakfast, 2023

locally sourced earth pigments / ochres on linen

120 x 200cm

\$17,000

Finalist - 2023 King Wood and Mallesons First Nations Art Award



JOHNATHON WORLD PEACE BUSH

Kakirijuwi of Fatima, 2023

locally sourced earth pigments / ochres on linen

150 x 150 cm

\$16,000



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Photo: Simon Strong



JOHNATHON WORLD PEACE BUSH
Mantani Mandela (Nelson Mandela), 2023
locally sourced earth pigments / ochres on linen
150 x 150 cm
\$16,000



The Armory Show, New York 2023

Installation View

Photo: Mikhail Mishin



Linden New Art, 2023

Installation View

Photo: Simon Strong

JOHNATHON WORLD PEACE BUSH CV

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Country: Paluwiyanga / Andranganoo (Goose Creek)
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Dance: Tartuwali (Shark)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Faithful, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne VIC
- 2023 Everything That Came Before Makes the Present, Linden New Art, Melbourne VIC
- 2022 Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Carriageworks, Sydney NSW
- 2022 Melbourne Art Fair, Jilamara Arts and Crafts Association

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 The Armory Show 2023, with Yhonnie Scarce, Javits Center, New York, USA
ORBIT, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne, VIC
Sir John Sulman Prize, Finalists Exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, NSW
Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Art, Finalists Exhibition, Montsalvat, Melbourne, VIC
Fisher's Ghost Art Award, Finalists Exhibition, Cambelltown Arts Centre, NSW
King & Wood Mallessons First Nations Art Award, Finalists Exhibition, Griffith University Art Gallery, QLD
- 2022 Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, with Vincent Namatjira, Carriageworks, Sydney NSW
15 Artists 2022, Finalist, Redcliffe Art Gallery, Moreton Bay, QLD
Mosman Art Prize, Finalists Exhibition, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Retribution: What Happens Next? Northern Centre for Contemporary Art, Darwin, NT
Who Are You? Australian Portraiture, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
- 2021 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 Ngiripantingija Ngirramini, Aboriginal Signature Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
Jilamara: circles, dots, lines, Artspace, Sydney, NSW

JOHNATHON WORLD PEACE BUSH

CV

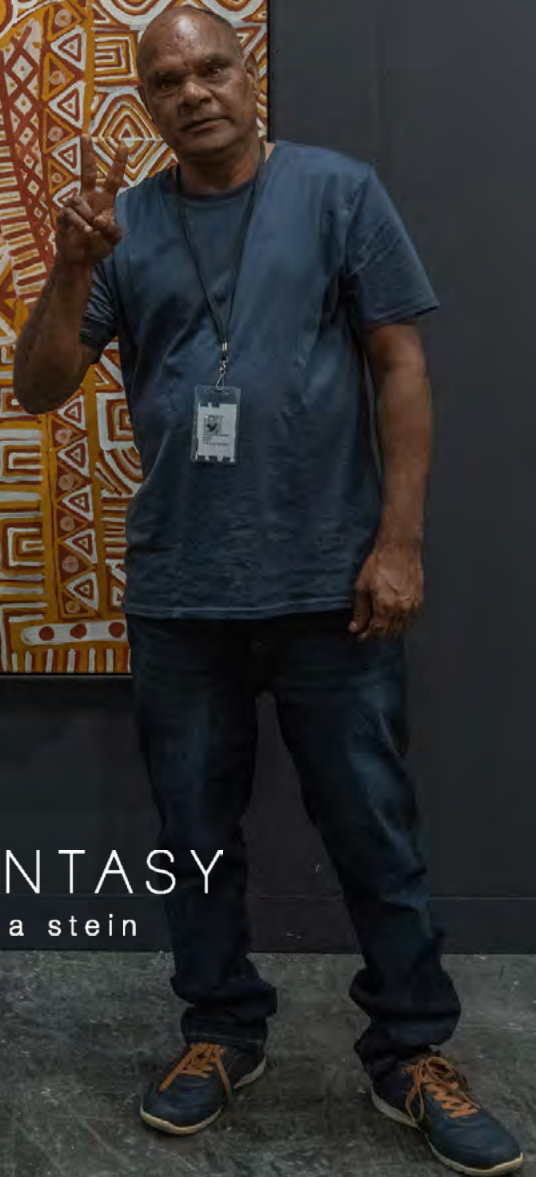
- Awurankini Jana Yimaninmarrampilya Ningani, Karluwu Ngini Ngawula Ngima, Darwin, NT
- 2019 Tarnanthi at Art Gallery South Australia, Adelaide, SA
Tiwi Jilamara, Queenscliff Gallery and Workshop, Queenscliff, VIC
Turnuwa amintiya kirijipuni, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
Pupini Jilamara Nginingwula (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
Ngini Parlingarri Amintiya Ningani, Nomad Art Gallery, Darwin, NT
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

PRIZES + AWARDS

- 2023 Finalist - Sir John Sulman Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, NSW
Finalist - King Wood & Mallesons First Nations Art Award 2023, Griffith Univeristy QLD
Finalist - Fisher's Ghost Art Award, Campbelltown NSW
Finalist - Nillumbik Prize for Contemporary Art, Montsalvat, VIC
- 2022 Mosman Art Prize, Sydney, NSW
15 Artists, Redcliffe Art Gallery, Moreton Bay, QLD



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