



Rusty Peters

Born in 1934, died in 2020, Springvale Station, Turkey Creek, Western Australia, Australia.

BIOGRAPHY

Rusty Peters was a senior Gija man of Juwurru skin. His bush name Dirjji refers to dingo pups looking out of a hole at the sunrise. His detailed knowledge of the land and stories from Springvale and neighbouring Moolabulla stations is reflected in distinctive paintings in traditional red and yellow ochres and black charcoal. While recognisably part of the 'Turkey Creek' style the intricate curves mapping the country and the dark caves and rivers in the pictures are particular to Peters work.

In 2015, Peters was a finalist in the 32nd Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, and in 2017, three of his paintings were featured in *Defying Empire*, the exhibition of the 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial at the National Gallery of Australia Canberra, and later at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. In 2018, at age 84, he painted a 5-metre triptych depicting his inimitable East Kimberley night starry skies over Darrajayin, his ancestral land. The beautiful and moving painting was acquired by ARTBANK, an entity of the Australian Government specialised in loaning and rotating the works of Australian artists in private and public institutions.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Mabel Juli & Rusty Peters "Stories of Garnkiny"*, RAFT Artspace, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
 - 2016 *Rusty Peters - Recent Paintings*, William Mora Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
 - 2012 *Rusty Peters*, Seva Frangos Art, Perth, Western Australia, Australia
 - 2004 *Long Fella Standing Up*, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, Australia
 - 2003 *Strong Language*, Grant Pirrie, Sydney, Australia
 - 2002 *Water Brain*, Grant Pirrie, Sydney, Australia
 - 2002 *Rusty Peters - Recent Paintings*, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, Australia
 - 1999 *Kimberley Stories*, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, Australia
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GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Close to Home*, JGM Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2020 *Ngarranggarni*, JGM Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2020 *Paying it Forward: Recent Acquisitions to the University Art Collection*, The Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 2019 *VOID*, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia
- 2019 *"Manparra" Big Boss Man - Male Masters Show*, Short Street Gallery, Broome, Western Australia, Australia
- 2019 *36th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards - Finalists Exhibition*, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia
- 2019 *Desert River Sea - A landmark exhibition of Kimberley Aboriginal Art*, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia, Australia
- 2019 *Beyond the surface of the Dreaming - Warmun & Jirrawun*, Aboriginal Signature, Estrangin Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2018 *Warmun At Twenty Exhibition - A group exhibition celebrating 20 years of Warmun Art Centre*, Nancy Sever Gallery, Canberra, Australia
- 2017 *When The Sky Fell - Legacies of the 1967 Referendum*, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, Perth, Western Australia, Australia
- 2017 *Defying Empire: 3rd National Indigenous Art Triennial*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Australia
- 2016 *Canberra Gravity (and wonder)*, Penrith Regional Art Gallery, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
- 2015 *LIVELY: New Prints from Warmun Arts*, Nomad Arts, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2015 *Recent paintings by senior Gija artists from Western Australia*, Nancy Sever Gallery, Canberra, Australia

- 2014 *The world is not a foreign land*, Ian Potter Museum of Art and NETS Victoria touring exhibition Warmun: Gija Contemporary Art of Western Australia, Harvey Art Projects, United States
- 2014 *Gija Manambarram Jimerawoon (Gija Senior Law People Forever)*, Australian Embassy Paris, France
- 2013 *Alice Springs Art Prize*, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2012 *Our Music*, Sydney Conservatorium of Music, New South Wales, Australia
- 2012 *Rusty Peters*, Seva Frangos Art, Perth, Western Australia, Australia
- 2011 *Where Knowledge Comes From*, Gadfly Gallery; Perth Concert Hall, Perth, Western Australia, Australia
- 2004 *Two Laws One Big Spirit with Peter Adsett*, 24Hour Art (touring exhibition), Wellington, New Zealand
- 2003 *Jirrawun jazz*, Raft Artspace, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2003 *True stories: Art of the East Kimberley*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
- 2002 *Blood on the spinifex*, The Ian Potter Museum of Art, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia
- 2002 *Jirrawun artists*, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, Australia
- 2002 *Rhapsodies in country*, GrantPirrie at Art Miami, United States
- 2001 *Four men, four paintings*, Raft Artspace, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2000 *Two Laws One Big Spirit with Peter Adsett*, 24Hour Art (touring exhibition), Darwin, Australia
- 1999 *My country*, Northern Territory University Gallery, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia
- 1998 *Jirrawun Aboriginal artists*, Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
- 1998 *Jirrawun artists from Crocodile Hole*, Gemma Stowe, Perth, Western Australia, Australia
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COLLECTIONS

- Aamu, Museum Of Contemporary Aboriginal Art, Holland
- Collection Roemer, Germany
- Museum & Art Gallery Of Northern Territory, Northern Territory, Australia
- National Gallery Of Victoria Melbourne Victoria, Australia
- United Nations, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia
- Peter Boehm Collection, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
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AWARDS & COMMISSIONS

- 2019 Peoples Choice Award, 36th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2019 Finalist, 36th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2018 Artbank Collection special Commission (Three Nyawana in Yarity Country Triptych)
- 2017 Finalist, Fremantle Art Centre Print Prize
- 2015 Finalist, 32nd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award
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- 2004 Rothwell, N. 'Under the Skin' The Weekend Australian Review, 12-13 June 2004
- 2003 Kofod, F, 'Blood on the spinifex', The World of Antiques and Art, February 2003, p. 193.
- 2003 Taylor, R, 'Blood on the spinifex', Art Monthly Australia, no. 159, 2003, pp. 28-31.
- 2003 Watson, K, True stories: Art of the East Kimberley, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2002 Oliver, T, M Langton & F Kofod, Blood on the Spinifex, University of Melbourne, 2002.
- 2002 Oliver, T, Rhapsodies in country, GrantPirrie, Sydney, 2002.
- 2001 Lee, M. A. article in Art and Artists in Australia March 2001
- 2000 Kofod, F 'The Oxford Companion to Aboriginal Art and Culture, Oxford University Press
- 1999 Rusty Peters Kimberley Stories, solo exhibition catalogue, William Mora Galleries 1999
- 1995 McAdam, Charlie, Boundary Lines, McPhee Gribble, Ringwood, Victoria, 1995

JGM GALLERY

24 Howie Street London SW11 4AF

Phone: +44 (0) 207 228 6027 | Email: info@jgmgallery.com | Website: www.jgmgallery.com