

---

# SABBIA GALLERY

---

609 Elizabeth Street REDFERN NSW 2016 AUSTRALIA . PO Box 1126 STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012  
www.sabbiagallery.com [gallery@sabbiagallery.com](mailto:gallery@sabbiagallery.com)

## ALISON MILYIKA CARROLL

Birth Date	4/03/1958
Birth Place	Pukatja Community, APY Lands
Language/s	Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara
Community	Pukatja, SA
Mother's Country	Near Kanpi Community, APY Lands
Father's Country	Amata Community, APY Lands

Alison Milyika Carroll was born in 1958 at the Ernabella Mission, now known as Pukatja Community. Alison Milyika's late husband, Kunmanara Carroll, was a former community policeman and internationally recognised artist, and together they have five children and five grandchildren. Alison Milyika is the current Anangu Mayatja (Manager) at Ernabella Arts and has previously been the Chairperson. She is also the Anangu Mayatja of Ananguku Arts (the peak body for South Australian Indigenous artists and art centres) and is on the Board of the Ernabella Anangu School, the Mai Wiru store, the Ernabella Community Council and the Traditional Owner Working Group of the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. Before she became an artist Alison Milyika was as a health worker for many years. She is also a well-known singer and member of the Ernabella Choir. She appeared in the 2011 ABC TV documentaries 'No Ordinary Mission' and 'Nothing Rhymes with Ngapartji.' Alison Milyika is strong leader and excellent spokesperson and advocate for artists and the APY Lands and she is regularly called on to speak at the opening of exhibitions and at public intuitions such as the Art Gallery of South Australia.

As well as being a public leader, Alison Milyika is a respected artist working across multiple mediums and her artwork reflects her identity as a contemporary and senior Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara woman. Her bark and ceramics are held in public collections, nationally and internationally. In 2011 she was awarded an Australia Council grant to undertake a residency within the Ceramics Department at ANU. The resulting work was exhibited in Canberra and collected by the National Museum of Australia and the Art Gallery of South Australia. In 2014 she was selected as a finalist in the Indigenous Ceramic Art Awards, and her work was acquired by Shepparton Art Museum. In 2014 she undertook a further ceramic residency at ANU and travelled to Singapore to attend a residency at Jalan Bahar Clay Studios. In 2016 Alison Milyika was the lead artist on an Ernabella collaborative ceramics installation depicting Seven Sisters (Kungkarangkalpa Tjukurpa). The work was acquired by the National Museum of Australia and exhibited in Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters, which is touring internationally for ten years. Alison attended the Paris opening of the exhibition in 2023.

In 2018 Alison Milyika's lifetime of dedication to the Anangu people and her own artistic achievements were recognised and she was presented with the Premier's Award for Lifetime Achievement (Ruby Awards), South Australia.

In 2020 Alison Milyika was awarded the Red Ochre Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Australia Council. Alison Milyika's work continues to be exhibited in Australia and around the world.

## Group Exhibitions

- 2024** Iriti - nguru Kunpu / Strong History, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2023** Nganampa Tjukurpa Nganampa Ara: Our Story Our Way - Sabbia Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2023** Ernabella Arts: Ceramic Warka Wiru 20 Years-kutu - 20 Years of Creating Ceramics - JamFactory Craft and Design Centre, Adelaide, SA
- 2023** Piryakatu - Springtime - Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsular, VIC
- 2023** Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2023** Terra Nova - 70 Years of Sturt Pottery - Sturt Gallery, Mittagong, NSW
- 2022** Clay on Country, Australian Ceramics Triennale - Araluen Art Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2022** Profundity - Art from the APY Lands - Aboriginal Signature, Brussels, Belgium
- 2022** SIXTY: The Journal of Australian Ceramics 60th Anniversary - Australian Design Centre, Sydney, NSW
- 2021** Desert Mob 30 - Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2020** Tarnarhi Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art: Open Hands - Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
- 2020** Talking Blak to History - National Museum of Australia, Canberra ACT
- 2020** Salon de Refuse - Charles Darwin University Gallery
- 2020** Flying Colours - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2019** Before Time Began: Contemporary Aboriginal Art - Collaborative artwork. Fondation Opale, Lens, Switzerland
- 2019** Wanapari - in a line, following one another - JamFactory Craft and Design Centre, Adelaide, VIC
- 2019** Desert Lines: Batik from Central Australia - Bendigo Art Gallery
- 2019** An Idea Needing to be Made: Contemporary Ceramics - Heide Museum of Modern Art, Bulleen, VIC
- 2019** MANIFEST: The art, craft and design of contemporary Australian ceramics - Princes Wharf 1, Hobart, TAS
- 2019** Berder. Gaba. Urrknga. Wantja. - Nishi Gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2018** Desert Mob 2018 - Araluen Art Centre
- 2017** Nyuyuntjaku - Keeping the fire alive | New paintings and ceramics by the artists of Ernabella Arts - Harvey Arts, USA
- 2017** In These Hands: Mara Nyangangka - Sturt Gallery, Mittagong NSW
- 2017** Nganampa Kililpi Kuwartija Tjuta pakani: Our Rising Stars II - Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2017** Clay Stories: Indigenous ceramics from remote Australia - Sabbia Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2016** Nganampa Kililpil: Our Stars - Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre
- 2016** Inheritance - Salt Contemporary, Queenscliff, VIC
- 2016** Point of difference - Desert to the Sea - Artitja Fine Art, Fremantle, WA
- 2016** Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2016** Indigenous Ceramics Art Award 2016 - Shepparton Art Museum
- 2016** Pukatjalanguru kungka tjuta kunpu warkarinytja | Ernabella women: strong work, together - Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW
- 2015** Yangupala Tjuta Waakarinyi (Many Young People Working) - Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW
- 2014** Ngura Kutjupa, Tjukurpa Kutju (Different Country, Same Story) - ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
- 2014** Fragrant Lands – Exhibition of Chinese and Australian Indigenous Art - Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Centre, Shanghai China
- 2014** Desert Mob 2014 - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2014** Fragrant Lands – Exhibition of Chinese and Australian Indigenous Art - Tandanya, Adelaide SA
- 2014** 2014 Indigenous Ceramic Art Award - Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton VIC
- 2014** Tjunga Warkarintja: Fifteen Years (Working Together) - Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW
- 2013** Putitja (From the Bush) - Strathnairn Arts, Canberra ACT
- 2012** Ngapartji Ngapartji - Canberra Playhouse Theatre, Canberra ACT
- 2012** Ngayuku Ngura, Ngayuku Tjukurpa (My Country, My Story) - SA Museum, Adelaide SA
- 2012** Tjamuku Kamiku Tjukurpa - Outstation Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2011** Ngura Kutju, Tjukurpa Pulkatjara - Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2011** Ngura kutjara - wangka mantanguru - Strathnairn Gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2011** Strong Women Strong Painting Strong Culture - Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, Hunter Valley NSW
- 2011** Ernabella Undiscovered - Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River WA
- 2011** Continuum (SALA) - Marshall Arts, Adelaide SA
- 2011** Mark Making - Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW
- 2011** Tjukurpa nyangatja ngananala ungu ngaranyi - Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney NSW
- 2010** Ara irititja munu ara kuwaritja Ernabella-la - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2010** Ngayuku Ngura (My Country) - Jam Factory, Adelaide, SA
- 2009** Ernabella Ceramics - Birrung Gallery, Sydney, NSW (Ceramics Triennial)
- 2008** Across the Desert: Aboriginal Batik from Central Australia - National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
- 2008** Desert Mob - Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT

- 2008** Kiti Art - New Batik from Ernabella - Fabric of Life (Fringe Festival), Adelaide, 2008)
- 2008** Nganampa warka wiru (Our work is beautiful) - Cudgegong Gallery, Gulgong, NSW
- 2008** Nganampa Tjukurpa: Our Stories - Indigenart (Mossenson Galleries), Perth, WA
- 2008** Desert Mob - Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs
- 2008** Our Mob - Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, SA (then touring regional SA through Country Arts SA)
- 2007** Alice Springs Beanie Festival - Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs
- 2007** Divas of the Desert - Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs
- 2007** Ernabella – A Collection of New Works - Australia Dreaming Art, Melbourne
- 2006** Homeland/Heartland - JamFactory, Adelaide
- 2006** Fabric of Life - Adelaide
- 2003** Jam Factory - Adelaide
- 2003** Hogarth Gallery - Sydney
- 2001** Edinburgh City Art Gallery - Edinburgh
- 2001** British Museum - London
- 1999** Contemporary Australian Craft - Hokkaido museum of Modern Art, Shiga, Japan
- 1998** Threefold; an exhibition in three parts for shift - Canberra School of Art, Canberra
- 1998** Mil Arte Gallery - London
- 1997** Superb munu Deadly - Jam Factory Craft and Design Centre, Adelaide
- 1997** Women's Work, Land and Spirit - WAPECC 1997-1999, travelling Australia
- 1997** Dreamings of the Desert - Art Gallery of South Australia
- 1996** Objects from the Dreaming - Art gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 1996** Great Lengths - Araluen centre for Art and Entertainment, Alice springs
- 1995** KOLOA, WAPEC - Beijing and travelling
- 1994** Irene Sutton Galleries - Melbourne
- 1994** Peter Ballas Gallery - Brisbane
- 1994** Ernabellaku: tjukurpa Wiru, Nganampa Tjukurpa - Museum national, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 1990** Ernabella Batik - The Dreamtime Gallery, Alice Springs

### **Bibliography**

- 2020** Red Ochre for Lifetime Achievement, Ceramic Arts, October 2020 p 39
- 2014** Tjungu Warkarintja: Working Together, Milyika Carroll, Catalogue essay p 4 - 8, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
- 2012** Earth Works. Contemporary Indigenous Australian ceramic art, Christine Nicholls, FUAM, p 36-41
- 2011** Mark Making, Sarah O'Sullivan, The Journal of Australian Ceramics, July 2011, p 75-79, image page 79  
Two Communities, Cathy Franzi, The Journal of Australian Ceramics, November 2011p 76-77, pg 77
- 2006** Ernabella Dreaming, Geoff Crispin, The Journal of Australian Ceramics, April 2006, p 49-52
- 2008** Across the Desert: Aboriginal Batik from Central Australia, Judith Ryan, NGV, p 28, 148-149

### **Collections**

- ARALUEN CENTRE COLLECTION, 2008
- ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1996
- ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 2011
- BRITISH MUSEUM, 2001
- NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, 2004
- NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, 2009
- NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, 1995
- NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA, 2011
- POWERHOUSE MUSEUM, SYDNEY, 1995
- QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY, 1996
- SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURING EXHIBITIONS PROGRAM, 1997
- WOLLONGONG UNIVERSITY COLLECTION, 1998
- SHEPPARTON ART MUSEUM, 2014
- NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA, 2016

**Awards**

- 2020** Red Ochre for Lifetime Achievement, NT  
**2018** Premier's Award for Lifetime Achievement (Ruby Awards), South Australia  
**2014** Indigenous Ceramic Art Award, Second Prize, acquisitive  
**2010** Australia Council for the Arts, Skills and Arts Development Grant

**Commissions**

- 2024** First Nations Arts and Culture Awards, Creative Australia

**Ernabella Arts Incorporated**

*Ernabella Arts Inc. is a community-based artists' association located on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands in the north-west of South Australia. The centre began in 1948, and was incorporated in 1974, firstly as Ernabella and Fregon Arts Inc. and then in 1975 as Ernabella Arts Incorporated.*

**Mission Statement**

*Ernabella Arts nyangangka minyma pampa munu wati tjilpi, kungkawara munu yangupala tjuta warkarinyi nganampa arts-pangka nganana mukuringkula wangkaringi nganampa warka pulkaringkula kunpuringkula community nganampa wiru titutjura ngaranytjaku.*

*Ernabella Arts is a place where many women and men elders and young women and men practice and develop our art, in order to sustain, support and promote our cultural heritage, and to improve the lifestyle of our community's members*