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# SABBIA GALLERY

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609 Elizabeth Street REDFERN NSW 2016 AUSTRALIA . PO Box 1126 STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012  
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## RUPERT JACK

Birth Date	1/01/1951
Birth Place	Mimili Community, APY Lands
Language	Pitjantjatjara
Community	Pukatja
Mother's Country	Indulkana Community, APY Lands
Father's Country	Nyapari Community, APY Lands

"Mr Jack's enigmatic pots use the clay surface as the palimpsest upon which to place his unique take on the traditional stories and legends from his community at Ernabella." (Glenn Barkley, 2016)

Rupert Jack is a senior Pitjantjatjara artist at Ernabella Arts working between the painting and ceramics studios. He is also the community pastor. He lives between his homeland, a place named Racecourse, and Ernabella (Pukatja) community.

"I was born in Mimili in 1951. I was still a little baby when I moved to Kenmore with my father and mother. My father worked for whitefellas digging wells and anything else. I stayed in Kenmore until I was a man. Then I moved to Ernabella for marriage. I have been a pastor for over twenty years. I spent a long time travelling around, everywhere, Western Australia, Northern Territory, working for the church. Talking and singing, *inma*. I still know traditional *tjukurpa*. These are good stories for Anangu. They show you how to look after people."

He is renowned for his striking hand-built forms that speak of his country, law and faith. His work depicts the *maku* (witchetty grub), *tjala* (honey ants), *ili* (bush fig), *kaltu kaltu* (bush seed that is ground into a flour to make a kind of damper and also Rupert's father's name) and *ngata* (bush berry) dreamings, as well as biblical stories of Moses and Abraham.

Informed by his knowledge of both traditional stories and the bible his work often draws connections between the two. Interestingly he employs the same visual language and iconography to depict both themes.

In 2016 Rupert was featured in the Australian Biennale of Ceramics, curated by Glenn Barkley. In the catalogue Barkley described Rupert's work as celebrating "clay's talismanic potential." In 2017 Rupert continued to develop his ceramic practice, exhibiting works at Alcaston Gallery, Araluen Art Centre, Sturt Gallery and Harvey Arts (USA). He was also a finalist in the 2017 Muswellbrook Ceramic Prize.

Rupert's art has been acquired by the National Museum of Australia, ArtBank, the University of Western Australia, the Royal Perth Hospital and the Australian Embassy in Zagreb.

In 2017 Rupert featured in *Clay Stories: Contemporary Indigenous ceramics from remote Australia* at JamFactory presented by Sabbia Gallery, Sydney for Tarnanthi: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, which then toured to regional galleries.

In 2018 and 2019 Rupert was a finalist in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award (The Telstras).

In 2020 Rupert had his first solo exhibition featuring his ceramics at Alcaston Gallery in Melbourne.

## Solo Exhibitions

2020 Rupert Jack: Solo - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC

## Group Exhibitions

- 2024 Iriti - nguru Kunpu / Strong History, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2022 Clay on Country, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2021 Flying Colours - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2020 Cultural Connections: the gift of story - Artitja Fine Art, South Fremantle  
Tarnarhi Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art: Open Hands - Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA  
Spring Salon Art - Artitja Fine Art, York, WA  
L'uomo - Masters of Ceramics - Sabbia Gallery, Sydney, NSW  
Ernabella Arts: About place - Artitja Fine Art, South Fremantle  
Flying Colours - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2019 Desert Mob 2019 - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
Desert Colour featuring Ernabella ceramics - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT  
Berder. Gaba. Urrknga. Wantja. - Nishi Gallery, Canberra ACT  
Anangu uwankara tjunguringkula pukulpa nyinama | Anangu happily sitting and working together - Short Street Gallery, Broome  
Desert Mob 2019 - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
Desert Colour featuring Ernabella ceramics - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT  
Berder. Gaba. Urrknga. Wantja. - Nishi Gallery, Canberra ACT  
Anangu uwankara tjunguringkula pukulpa nyinama | Anangu happily sitting and working together - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2018 Desert Mob 2018 - Araluen Art Centre  
Weapons for the Soldier - Hazlehurst Regional Gallery
- 2017 Nyuyuntjaku - Keeping the fire alive | New paintings & ceramics by the artists of Ernabella Arts - Harvey Arts, USA  
In These Hands: Mara Nyangangka - Sturt Gallery, Mittagong NSW  
Desert Mob 2017 - Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT  
Spirited - Kurunitja - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA  
Ngura Kutjupa, Walytja Kutju: Different communities, one family - Tangentyere Artists, Alice Springs, NT  
Clay Stories: Indigenous ceramics from remote Australia - Sabbia Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2016 Artists of the APY Lands: 2017 - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC  
Nganampa Kililpi: Our Stars - Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre  
Nganampa Kililpi Kuwartija Tjuta pakani: Our Rising Stars - Hazelhurst Regional Community Gallery, NSW  
Desert Mob - Araluen Arts Centre  
Paluru tjukurpa pulka kanyilpai: He keeps our stories safe - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT  
Art from the APY Lands - Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD  
Australian Ceramics Biennale: OVERUNDERSIDEWAYS DOWN - Manly Art Gallery & Museum
- 2015 Tjukurpa Kunpu / Strong Culture: HOLIDAY SHOW 2015-2016 - Harvey Art Projects, USA  
Desert Mob - Araluen Arts Centre  
NGANAMPA NGURA, NGANAMPA TJUKURPA – Our Land, Our Stories - Artitja Fine Art, South Fremantle  
Wati tjuta-ku Tjukurpa kunpu ngaranyi – All the men have strong stories, always there - raft Artspace, Alice Springs  
Yangupala Tjuta Waakarinyi (Many Young People Working) - Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW  
Paysages Aborigènes incarnés de l'APY land (Incarnated Aboriginal landscape from the APY lands) - Aboriginal Signature, Brussels  
Colours of Nature: Australian contemporary art - Shinsegae gallery, Korea
- 2014 Tjulpirpa wiya - Clay! - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT  
Desert Mob 2014 - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT  
Nganana Kulilpai Nganampa Tjukurpa - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC  
Tjunga Warkarintja: Fifteen Years - Sabbia Gallery, Paddington NSW
- 2013 Ernabella Ceramics - Raft ArtSpace, Alice Springs NT  
ReGeneration: established & emerging talents of Indigenous Art - McCulloch & McCulloch, Shoreham, VIC  
Desert Mob 2013 - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT  
Putitja: From Spinifex Country - Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney NSW  
APY Survey Exhibition - Outstation Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2012 Desert Mob 2012 - Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT  
Kapi Ukalinganyi - Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney NSW  
Uwankara Kurunpa Kutju-Tjara - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2011 Ngura Kutju, Tjukurpa Pulkatjara - Short St Gallery, Broome WA  
Ernabella Undiscovered - Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River WA  
Nganana Ngura-ku Ninti, Nganana Ngura Kanyini (We know our land, we keep pur Land) - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT

**Bibliography**

2016 OVERUNDERSIDEWAYS DOWN (exhibition catalogue)  
featured within, The Journal of Australian Ceramics (Vol 55 No 1)

**Collections**

ARTBANK, 2012  
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA, 2016  
ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL, 2018  
Australian Embassy in Zagreb  
University of Western Australia, 2019

**Awards**

2019 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art  
Award, Finalist  
2018 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art  
Award, Finalist

***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*