

SABBIA

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ABN 54 111 770 202

RONA PANANGKA RUBUNTJA

Born

1970 Western Arranta, Auslan

Skin Penangke

Current Home Ntaria NT

Biography

Rona Rubuntja was born in 1970 and is the niece of famous watercolourist and elder Wenten Rubuntja. She joined the Hermannsburg Potters in 1998, and has since established herself as one of the most prominent senior artists of the group, participating in exhibitions across Australia and internationally, including her first solo exhibition, Down the Road from Ntaria, which opened at Sabbia Gallery in Sydney in November 2022. Rona is represented by Sabbia Gallery in NSW. Rubuntja's joyous style is distinctive, humorous and imaginative, and her storytelling ability comes across most strongly in her figurative work. She remains inspired by contemporary life in Ntaria, and her work often includes depictions of cattle and brumbies roaming country, heading out to the outstation in a Toyota, and collecting bush tucker with her extended family.

In January 2024 Rona was invited to exhibit, present and demonstrate her work at the Indian Ceramics Triennale in New Delhi, India.

Rona was a finalist in the 2023 King & Wood Malleson's First Nations Art Award for her collaboration with Top End artist Ray Mudjandi, Black Speed. Rona's work was shortlisted for the Telstra NATSIAA's in 2021. Her work was also shortlisted in The Design Files Awards for 2021.

Rona Rubuntja's work was selected for the prestigious Shepparton Art Museum Indigenous Ceramic Art Award three times, winning second place in 2008 for her work Palm Valley Muster. Rona exhibited in the highly acclaimed exhibition at The National Gallery of Victoria Our Land is Alive: Hermannsburg Potters for Kids in 2015/2016.

Solo Exhibitions

2025 Atha era irna arama – All the Things I Seen – Ntaria to India, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney
2022 Down the Road from Ntaria, Sabbia Gallery, Sydney

Group Exhibitions

2025 TWENTY, Sabbia, Sydney, NSW
Premio, Sabbia, Sydney, NSW
2024 AFL Footy in Aranda Country
Common Ground, Indian Ceramics Triennale, India
2023 Nhanha Arna-Urrknga Nurnaka Pmara-Rinya: This Clay Belongs To Our Country, Indian Ceramics Triennale, India
Environmental Art and Design Prize, Manly Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Together we tell our stories 2023: Indigenous Glass, Ceramics, Fibre + Sculpture, Sabbia Gallery
2022 Clay on Country
Sydney Modern - Opening Exhibition, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, NSW
2021 Hermannsburg Potters: Yia Ngkarrama (Telling Stories) presented by JamFactory Telstra NATSIA Awards
Exhibition Pmara Nurnaka, Yia Nurnaka: Our Country, Our Stories
Together we tell our stories 2021: Indigenous Glass, Ceramics, Fibre + Sculpture, Sabbia Gallery
2020 Tarnanthi Art Fair, 2020 Sentient Portraits - Archie Plus THE HERMANSBURG POTTERS: Pmara nurnaka imanka,
Pmara nurnaka lyaarta - Country, then and now Lineage & Legacy
2019 Pmare Nuka- Our Country' Turner Galleries, Perth, Western Australia
Hermannsburg Potters, Bett Gallery, Hobart Tasmania, Australia
Desert Mob, Araluen, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
Looking Back Moving Forward' Alcaston Gallery, Fitzroy, Australia
Christmas Exhibition' Tangentyere Artists, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia Collections:
Art Gallery of New South Wales

- 2018 Clay Stories, (two year travelling exhibition) Araluen Arts Centre. Northern Territory. Australia
'Lurpa- Seasons' Bett Gallery, Hobart Tasmania, Australia
Desert Mob, Araluen Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
Tarnanthi, Adelaide, South Australia
Ramaramaka 'General' on Big Pot Project Alcaston Gallery, Fitzroy, Melbourne, Australia
- 2017 Clay Stories, Sabbia Gallery, Paddington, New South Wales. Australia
Time and Tide, Alcaston Gallery, Victoria. Australia
Desert Mob, Alice Springs, Northern Territory. Australia.
Irna :Trees, Alcaston Gallery, Paddington, New South Wales. Australia.
Clay Stories, Seppeltsfield, South Australia. Australia.
- 2016 Provenance Does Matter - The Collectors' Exhibition, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Pmara – Country, Home, Map, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Provenance Does Matter – Living with Contemporary Art II, Alcaston Gallery at Gallery 369, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia
2016 Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
Ltharta, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 2015 Our Land is Alive – Hermannsburg Potters for Kids, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 2014 Hermannsburg Potters – New Marks, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Indigenous Ceramic Art Award, Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton, Victoria, Australia
- 2012 Hermannsburg Potters 2012. All Things Clay, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
2013 The Hermannsburg Potters – New Hand-built Pots & Sculpture, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 2011 Desert Mob 2011, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
Hermannsburg Potters 2011. Stories from Clay, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
2012 Desert Mob 2012, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2010 Themes of the Central Desert: New ceramics by the Hermannsburg Potters, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 2009 Iltja Nunaka Orkapurna Ntari – Hand-made from Hermannsburg, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 2008 Nanah Etatha Nuka – This is our Life, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 2007 The Women's Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Classic Ceramics and Oil Paintings, Bandigan Art Gallery, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
2007 Desert Mob Show, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
Indigenous Ceramics, SoFa Chicago, Illinois, USA
- 2006 *Pmara Nurnaka Etata – Our Land is Alive*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Iltja nurnaka Urrkaapuma-From Our Hands, Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Hermannsburg Potters 2006, Bandigan Art Gallery, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
Galerie Rosenhauer, Goetingen, Germany
Senior Women of the Central Desert, Gadfly Gallery, Perth, Western Australia, Australia
Desert Mob Show, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2005 *Aranda Landscapes 2005*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Hermannsburg Pottery, Paintings Exhibition, Bandigan Art Gallery, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
Desert Mob Show, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
Arrkutja Wurra, Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
- 2004 *Arranjapera Nanaka Our World*, Bandigan Art Gallery, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
2004 *Desert Mob Show*, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
All Fired Up, Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
2005 *Arna Wurtja Kwartja Laya – From the Desert to the Sea*, Gadfly Gallery, Perth, Western Australia
- 2003 *Hermannsburg Potters in Paint*, Thornquest Gallery, Southport, Queensland, Australia
Namatjira Country, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 2002 *Nanah Etatch Nunaka – This is Our Life*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Pmara Nunakana – Our Country, Indigenart, Perth, Western Australia, Australia
2002 *Pmara Nunaka*, Bundaberg Regional Gallery, Queensland, Australia
- 2001 *Pmara Nunakana Larkama – Our Sparkling Country*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Nunaka Pmara Inthorra – Our Beautiful Country, DESART Gallery, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
All About Art, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Pots, Prints and Paintings, Indigenart, Perth, Western Australia, Australia
- 2000 *Hermannsburg Pots*, Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia
2000 *The Desert Mob Show*, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
All About Art, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Hermannsburg Potters, Brisbane City Gallery, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Hermannsburg Potters, Redback Gallery, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Out of the Desert, DESART Gallery, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
Art from the Central Desert, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
- 1999 *The Desert & The Sea*, Raintree Aboriginal Art, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia
2000 *Hermannsburg Potters: Aranda Artists of Central Australia*, New Parliament House, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia
- 1998 *The Desert Mob Show*, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
Hermannsburg Potters, National Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Sydney, Australia
1999 *All About Art*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Awards

- 2014 Shortlisted, Indigenous Ceramic Art Award, Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton, Victoria, Australia
2008 First Runner-Up, Indigenous Ceramic Art Award, Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton, Victoria, Australia 2011
Shortlisted, Indigenous Ceramic Art Award, Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton, Victoria, Australia

Collections

Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory,
Australia Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, South Australia,
Australia Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Ballarat, Victoria,
Australia Beverly Hills Library, Beverly Hills, California, United States of America
Flinders University Art Museum, Adelaide, South Australia,
Australia Parliament House Collection, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory,
Australia Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia National Gallery of
Australia, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory,
Australia National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Victoria,
Australia National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory,
Australia Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Queensland University of Technology Art Museum, Brisbane, Queensland,
Australia Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton, Victoria,
Australia University of New South Wales Art Collection, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
Gallery of New South Wales Collection, Sydney, Australia

Publications

- 2016 Flanagan, Marjorie., 'Possibilities – in black and white', The Age, 5 March, p. 51.
Stern, Melissa., 'Aboriginal Women in Australia Celebrate Their Football Heroes with Pottery', Hyperallergic:
Sensitive to Art and its Discontents
2015 Buttler, Elisha., 'Make – Hermannsburg Potters', NGV Gallery Magazine, pp. 48-52.
Davidson, Helen., 'Aussie Rules and Aboriginal art: meet the Hermannsburg potters at work', The Guardian 2015
Sibenaler, David., 'Art of AFL', The Herald Sun, 9 June, p. 8.
2007 Hermannsburg Life – Over Seventeen Years of Contemporary Art Exploration, Artisan Gallery, Queensland 2013
Whinnett, Ellen., 'Tiger Lady: The making of a Richmond President', Herald Sun, 12 October, pp. 37-39.
2006 The Jukurrpa Diary, IAD Press, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
2000 Isaacs, Jennifer., Potters: Aranda Artists of Central Australia, Craftsman House

Bibliography

- 2016 Flanagan, M, Three days that made the remark, The Age, March 4.
Stern, M, Aboriginal Women in Australia Celebrate their Football Heroes with Pottery, Hyperallergic: Sensitive to
Art and its Discontents, Online publication.
2015 Butler, E, Make: Hermannsburg Potters, NGV Gallery Magazine, National Gallery of Victoria, July/August 2015,
pp.48-52.
Davidson, H, Aussie Rules and Aboriginal Art: meet the Hermannsburg Potters at work, The Guardian,
September 7
Marshall, K, Pottery exhibition tells story of town in clay, The Age, September 13.
Scanlon, J, Indigenous AFL moments in time bought to life in clay, The Huffington Post, October 1.
Sibenaler, D, Art of AFL, The Herald Sun, June 9, Page 8.
2013 Nicholls, C, Mission Accomplished: the Hermannsburg Potters, in Australian and New Zealand Journal of Art,
Vol.13, No.1, pp.126-145.
Whinnett, E, Tiger Lady: The Making of a Richmond President, Herald Sun, 12 October, pp.37-39.
2007 Tee, E and Bernard, T, Hermannsburg Life - Over Seventeen Years of Contemporary Art Exploration, Artisan
Gallery, Queensland
2006 The Jukurrpa Diary, IAD Press, Alice Springs, Northern Territory.
2000 Issacs, J, The Hermannsburg Potters: Aranda Artists of Central Australia, Craftsman House, Sydney

Commissions

- 2015 Our Land is Alive: Hermannsburg Potters for Kids, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
2009 Potters' Portrait Pot, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, ACT

Awards

- 2024 AFL Footy in Aranda Country Award, Alcaston Gallery
2023 King & Wood Mallesons First Nations Art Award, Brisbane, Australia
2021 Shortlisted, The Design Files + Laminex Design Awards, Handcrafted Category, Australia
2021 Finalist, Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Darwin, Australia
2014 Shortlisted, Indigenous Ceramic Art Award, Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton, Australia
2011 Shortlisted, Indigenous Ceramic Art Award, Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton, Australia

