

KIEREN KARRITPUL

In Daly River artist Kieren Karritpul's art there is no escaping the woven lines of inspiration. The woven form is both subject and metaphor in his work, and also to some extent part of their process. In his first solo exhibition, Karritypul, the titles of his paintings, prints and textile-based work all indicated a particular woven form including the yerggi which is actually a pre-woven form, yerrgi being the Daly River word (Ngan'gikurrungurr language) for the ubiquitous pandanus plant, the Screw Palm, Pandanus spiralis which together with the Sand Palm (merrepen, Livistona humilis) are the main sources of fibre for Top End weavers.

In essence, Kieren's yerrgi bundles symbolise the potency of weaving and the woven form and become a metaphor for the very idea of potency. Perhaps this is an autobiographical touch from someone so young who is in the early formative stages of realising his own potential as an artist. And yet there is a delightful and seasoned ingenuity in Kieren's choice and varied rendering of the yerrgi bundle.

Like Monet's haystacks – vehicles for the study and celebration of light, Kieren's yerrgi-'stacks' are a meditation on and celebration of Aboriginal culture.

In these abstracted views, the woven form almost becomes mandala-like with the imagery built up from radiating bands of short parallel lines. In this sense the line can be seen as a faithful transposition of the coil weave technique rather than the traditionally longer, looser stitches though it is in effect more about Kieren's visual-poetic licence in the process of translating one form into another to become something much more than what it represents; to transcend.

- Maurice O'Riordan, Director, Northern Centre for Contemporary Art, 2015
(Woven Lines catalogue essay excerpts)

KIEREN KARRITPUL

Born 1994, lives and works in Nauiyu, Daly River, Northern Territory, Australia

Traditional Country: Malfiyin

Language: Ngen'gi wumirri

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2023

New Works on Paper, Tolarno Galleries

2023

Texere, Tolarno Galleries (part of Melbourne Design Week)

2022

Making the Ancestors Smile Tolarno Galleries

2020

Kieren Karritpul, *Works on Paper 2020*, Bush Traders, Darwin, Northern Territory
Painting my Country. Painting my Landscape Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts & Culture Centre, Katherine, NT

2019

The Alchemist, Form Gallery, The Goods Shed, Perth, Western Australia

2015

Woven Lines, Nomad Art Gallery, Darwin, NT

2014

Karritypul, Nomad Art Gallery, Darwin, NT

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022

Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA), Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory, Darwin, NT

The Alice Prize Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT

2021

Aboriginal Screen-Printed Textiles from Australia's Top End, Fowler Museum, University of California USA. Curator Joanna Barrkman

Indigenous Textiles from the Tropical Zone, Cairns Regional Gallery, Queensland

2020

One River System. Many Rivers, Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts & Culture Centre, Katherine, NT

Merrepen Arts 2020: New Paintings, Textiles and Ceramics, Tactile Arts, Darwin, NT

2001–2019

Merrepen Arts Festival, Daly River, Northern Territory

2019

Kieren Karritpul + Patricia Marfurra: Old Way & New Way, Yarr wetimbi yi Yarr marrgu, Cross Arts, Sydney

Mary Kunyi and her Legacy, Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts & Culture Centre, Katherine, NT

Woven Circles, Woven Lives, Tactile Arts, Darwin, NT

2018

Blak Design Matters, National Survey of Contemporary Indigenous Design, Koorie Heritage Trust, Melbourne

2016

33rd Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA), Darwin – Finalist

2015

Kidin: Time of Plenty – new etchings from Merrepen Arts, Nomad Art Gallery, Darwin, NT
32nd Telstra NATSIAA Awards, Darwin; Youth Award – Highly Commended

2014

31st Telstra NATSIAA Awards, Darwin; Youth Award – Winner

2013

Fresh: Emerging Talent of Indigenous Art, SALT Contemporary, Victoria

2011

Spirit Within: Creation, Community and Renewal in Indigenous Art, Manresa Gallery, San Francisco, USA, guest co-curator Tressa Berman, Ph.D

“We paint the Stories of our Culture!”: Australian Aboriginal Art from the Dreamtime to the Art Gallery, Museum of Cultural History, Oslo, Norway

PUBLIC AND SIGNIFNCANT PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Alan and Maria Myers QC

Art Bank, Australia

Catholic Care NT

Darwin Airport

Fowler Collection, Fowler Museum University of California, USA

Merrepen Art Collection

Museum and Art Gallery NT, Darwin

Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney

Museum of Cultural History, Norway

National Gallery of Australia Canberra

Newcastle University, Collection

Parliament House, Canberra

Paspaley Collection, Darwin

Royal Darwin Hospital

Royal Palace Collection, London, England
Tipperary Station, Daly River

AWARDS

2022

Telstra NATSIAA Awards, Darwin – Finalist
The Alice Prize – Finalist

2020

NIFA Indigenous Textile Artist of The Year – Winner

2015

Northern Territory Young Achiever Awards, Charles Darwin University Arts Award –
Finalist

2014

Telstra NATSIAA Awards, Darwin: Youth Award – Winner

PROFESSIONAL

2021

Collaboration with Country Road Homewares

2018 –

Arts Worker, Merrepen Arts

2018 – 2020

Director, Arnhem, Northern and Kimberley Artists (ANKA), the peak advocacy and support body for Aboriginal artists and Art Centres across Northern Australia. Youngest Director ever appointed.

2016

Textile workshop participant, Sydney

2014

Arts Worker Extension Programme, ANKA

PUBLICATIONS

2021

What Next Art Collector Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Guide, August 2021
Charlotte Middleton *Tolarno Galleries Now Representing Kieren Karritpul*, Art Collector
August 2021

<https://artcollector.net.au/tolarno-galleries-now-representing-kieren-karritpul>

2020

Shami Sivasubramanian and Chantelle Al-Khoury, *Kieren Karritpul On Expressing Culture Through Fabric* – FBI Radio, 6 November 2020

<https://fbiradio.com/naidoc-week-kieren-karritpul/>

Alley Pascoe & Kathryn Madden, *Meet The Winners Of The Inaugural National Indigenous Fashion Awards*, Marie Claire, 5 August 2020

<https://www.marieclaire.com.au/national-indigenous-fashion-awards-winners>

Glynis Traill-Nash, *Dreaming in style*, The Australian, 6 August 2020

Indigenous Textiles, Fowler Museum University of California, USA. Catalogue, curator Joanna Barrkman

Dr Cathy Laudenbach, *Painting my Country. Painting my Landscape* GYRACC Katherine, Catalogue essay

Maurice O’Riordan, *Kieren Karritpul: The new power*, Textile Fibre Forum

Kieren Karritpul, winner of the NIFAs Textile Design Award, NITV, 3:04min

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=756513278515077>

2018

Blak Design Matters, Koorie Heritage Trust Inc, 2018, Pg.71-72

2016

Tina Baum, *Kieren Karritpul: Old Ways, New Eyes*, Artlink, June 2016, Issue 36:2

2015

Kieren Karritpul: Woven Lines, Nomad Art Gallery, catalogue

Lynn Gallick, *This young artist could be Australia’s answer to Monet*, Spoonful Magazine, Issue 4, 2015, pp10-15