
Artist biographies

John Wolseley

Painter, printmaker and installation artist John Wolseley was born in Somerset, England in 1938. He studied at St Martins School of Art between 1957 and 1958, the Byam Shaw School of Art, London, in printmaking from 1958 to 1963 and later in Paris between 1961 and 1963. He lived and worked throughout Europe before relocating to Australia in 1976, where he travelled extensively through the outback. He has been artist in residence at studios at Deakin University, Bendigo, the Joye Art Foundation, the Art Gallery of Western Australia and George Cottage Launceston, and has taught painting in Northern Territory Communities since 1978.

Wolseley has held solo exhibitions in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra and survey exhibitions of his work have been held at the Art Gallery of Western Australia, the University of Melbourne and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Tasmania. His work has been included in group exhibitions at the National Gallery of Australia, the National Gallery of Victoria, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney and the Australian Centre of Contemporary Art, Melbourne.

Wolseley is the previous recipient of the Geelong Gallery Capital Permanent Acquisition Award in 1979; the Art Gallery of New South Wales Trustees watercolour prize in 1982, 1985, 1988, 1995 and 2004; and the Alice Prize in 1982, 1985, 1988, 1996, 2004. He received a bicentennial commission from the Art Gallery of New South Wales in 1988, and Australia Council Grant in 1998 and an Honorary PhD in Science from Macquarie University in 2005. His work is represented by the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; most state galleries, Parliament House, Canberra; several regional and tertiary collections and internationally in collections in England and Yugoslavia. A monograph of his work was published in 1998, and a collection of artworks accompanied by poetry 'Lines for birds' was published in 2011.

John Wolseley is represented by Australian Galleries, Melbourne.

Biography sourced from Australian Galleries.

Mulkun Wirrpanda

Mulkun Wirrpanda (b. 1942) is a senior female artist for the Dhudji-Djapu clan from Dhuruputjpi. She is a daughter of the late Dhâkiyarr Wirrpanda and widow to Wakuthi Marawili, a Maddrrpa clan leader who lived at Yilpara until his death in mid-2005. She is also mother (by kinship) to senior artist and clan leader Djambawa Marawili.

Mulkun paints Dhudji-Djapu miny'tji (sacred design) that depicts her land at Dhuruputjpi. As the eldest and most knowledgeable of her clan, she is acknowledged as a leader. Mulkun is one of the few Yolŋu women to have this status. Mulkun was an early practitioner of works without figurative imagery within the miny'tji (sacred clan design). Until recently the painting of this 'raw' miny'tji was restricted to ceremonial use. The work is always done using natural earth pigments (ochres). Yalata and Darraggi are areas she usually paints, which are at her clan estate Dhuruputjpi, where she resides. Mulkun paints on bark, Iarrakitj (memorial poles) and yidaki (didjeridus) and is a talented carver, weaver and print maker. Her work has been exhibited throughout Australia and in Asia.

From 2012 she began a phase where the artist of her own motion explored lesser known plant species which she feared were being forgotten by younger generations. This coincided with artist John Wolseley's interest in returning to Yilpara (after they had met during the Djalkiri project of 2010) and the two spent an extended period exploring the botany of Blue Mud Bay. She wants to renew the knowledge of these plants because when she was young this is the food that she grew up on. In those days old people lived for a long time without illness. John Wolesley spent a week at Yilpara with Mulkun in May 2012 and again at Yirrkala in June 2013, with further visits in 2014 and 2015.

Mulkun Wirrpanda is represented by Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art Centre, Yirrkala.

ART+CLIMATE=CHANGE 2019

Part of ART+CLIMATE=CHANGE 2019 23 April–19 May, a socially-engaged festival of exhibitions, theatre works, keynote lectures, events and artist talks considering climate change impacts and the challenges and opportunities arising from climate change.

Events

Slow Art Day, Sunday 14 April, at 11.00am

This is a free event. Bookings essential.

Creative conversation: Art + Environment—John Wolseley and Alexandra de Blas, Wednesday 24 April at 6.00pm

Cost—Members \$12.00 | Non-members \$15.00

Purchase tickets: geelonggallery.org.au/events