

Kayannie Denigan

Born 1988

Currently lives and works in Canberra ACT

Kayannie (pronounced Kai-arnie) Denigan is a Luritja artist. She grew up in the remote Cape York community of Hope Vale and has strong connections to the community and its peoples. She is recognised as part of the Bagarmuguwarra and Kuku Yalanji nations and as a Traditional Owner of that country. Kayannie has connections to Ilitjari and Unturu in Central Australia through her grandmother and great-grandmother respectively and to Buru, Starke and Yuku Budhuwigu on Cape York, through her step-father's family.

Kayannie's works predominantly in acrylic on canvas and her painting style was passed down to her from her grandmothers and utilises the iconic dots of Central Desert art. Her art combines the desert way with the colours and stories of the Bagarmuguwarra and Kuku Yalanji people of Far North Queensland. She is able to merge the contrasting styles of her heritage and upbringing to create her own unique style. Kayannie has recently begun working in copper, brass and silver to create contemporary jewellery and items that reflect and enhance her practice.

Exhibitions

2019 Contributor—*Efflorescence*, Humble House Galley, Canberra ACT

2019 Contributor—*From My Mother Unto Me*, ANCA, Canberra ACT

2019 Contributor—*Emerging Contemporaries*, Craft ACT, Canberra ACT

2017 Solo Artist—*My County: ngathu bubu*, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Canberra ACT

2017 Contributor—*Tribute*, Belconnen Art Centre, Canberra ACT

Prizes

2019 Finalist and acquired artist—Contemporary Wearables Biennial Jewellery Award, Toowoomba Regional Gallery, Toowoomba Qld

2019 Finalist—Agendo Art Award, Camberwell Grammar School, Melbourne Vic

2016 Winner—Cliftons Art Prize, Canberra ACT

2016 Finalist—Inner North Art Prize, Canberra ACT

2016 Finalist—Goulburn Art Award, Goulburn Regional Art Gallery, Goulburn NSW

Other

2019 Facilitator—National Gallery of Australia Schools Reconciliation Challenge Workshop, Canberra ACT

2018 Participant—Craft ACT Indigenous Craft + Design Workshop, Canberra ACT

2017 Designer—*Strong Past, United Future* for Unions ACT

Collections

Cliftons Art Collection, Canberra ACT

Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Toowoomba Qld