

Barbara Weir

Bio

Everyone grows up expecting that people around them will automatically understand what they are saying. But Aboriginal artist Barbara Weir has twice lost the ability to easily grasp the world around her.

The first time was as a girl after she was stolen from her family in central Australia by white authorities in the 1950s. Because she was taken before she was 10 (she is uncertain exactly when), in acquiring English she then lost the ability to speak her mother's languages from around what is now the Aboriginal settlement of Utopia in the Northern Territory.

Her father, Irish-Australian Jack Weir, had been a married property owner and she was living with her mother, Minnie Pwerle, and her people when she was seized.

"When I went back to find my mum in 1968 it was scary for me because I couldn't speak her languages any more," she says.

"I was frightened the first time because it was a different world from what I knew."

It is a tribute to Weir's fighting spirit and adaptability that she is now a noted citizen in both the black and white worlds. As well as selling her art around the world, she is also in a position to help the communities around Utopia.

Excerpt taken from "Joining dots on the way to Utopia" by Robin Usher, *The Age*, July 15, 2004.

Exhibitions

2003

"Light Over Utopia" Japingka Gallery, Fremantle

2002

"Generations" Japingka Gallery, Fremantle

2001

"Out of Utopia", Chapman Gallery, Canberra

Alison Kelly Gallery, Armadale, Melbourne

Selected artist to be included in YPO Conference in Sydney, NSW

'Painting Country', Tandanya Cultural Institute, Adelaide

"Desert Colour, My Country", Raintree Aboriginal Art Gallery, Darwin

"Women Artists of the Australian Desert", Gallery 2021, Auckland, New Zealand

"Two Women Dreamings" (with Gloria Petyarre), Dreamtime Gallery Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

"2001 An Art Odyssey" celebrating The Centenary of Federation, West End: Adelaide's Art Precinct

"Reunited", Alison Kelly Gallery, Armadale, Melbourne

Mixed Utopia Exhibition, Knut Grothe Galeri, Charlottlenlund, Copenhagen

"Paintings From Utopia", Framed Gallery, Darwin

Galeri a Le Temps Du Reve, France

"Contemporary Aboriginal Art From The Utopia Region", BMGART, Adelaide, SA

2000

"An Affair to Remember", ArtSauce, Singapore

Solo Exhibition, "Gathering the Past", Redback Art Gallery, Brisbane

Solo Exhibition, Gallery Savah, Sydney

Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney

Tandanya Cultural Institute, Adelaide

Gordes, Vaucluse, France

DACOU Gallery in association with AMP (Official sponsor of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games), AMP Building, Sydney

Mary Place Gallery, Sydney

Redlands Westpac Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney

'Women's Business', Australian Exhibition Centre, Chicago, USA

1999

'Utopia', BMG Art, Adelaide

"Bush Garden", Japingka Gallery, Fremantle

Utopia V, Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney
"Caring For Country", Tandanya Cultural Institute, Adelaide
16th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award
Solo Exhibition, Flinders Lane Gallery- Melbourne
Gallery Savah, Sydney
North Shore Fine Art, Sydney
Solo Exhibition 'Dream Works', Gallery Savah, Sydney

1998

Art Felchlin- Zurich, Switzerland
Gallery Griffiouen, Belgium
Boomerang Gallery, Amsterdam
Kunsdcentoum Aalst, Belgium
Kunsdcentoum Dendermonde, Belgium
Frank Popko Gallery, Rees, Germany
Ebes Collection, Workum, Netherlands
Jack Ellis Exhibition, Seattle, USA
"Women Painters Of The Desert", FireWorks Gallery, Brisbane
ARTEXPO New York in association with Mandurah Ltd New York.
"Utopia IV" Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney
Solo exhibition, Chapman Gallery, Canberra
SCECGS Redlands, Sydney
15th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award for 1998
Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
Adelaide Festival Theatre, Adelaide

1997

Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney NSW
DACOU Gallery, Adelaide
Hogarth Gallery, Sydney
"Dreamings of the Desert" Artist in residence program, Art Gallery of South Australia
Solo exhibition at DACOU Gallery, Adelaide
Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
"Ten Years On", Sutton Gallery, Melbourne
Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney, NSW
14th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
Solo exhibition, Barry Stern Gallery- Sydney
FireWorks Gallery, Brisbane

1996

Framed Gallery, Darwin
Gallery Woo Mang & Partners, Paris, France
Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
Quadrivium Gallery, Sydney
Solo exhibition at Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane

1995

DACOU Gallery, Adelaide
Davis Avenue Gallery, Melbourne

Collections

Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Art Gallery of Queensland, Brisbane
Hank Ebes Collection
Holmes a Court Collection
Hitachi
AMP

Macquarie Bank