

THE COMMERCIAL

MICHAEL RILEY

b. 1960, Dubbo NSW
d. 2004

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SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 *A common place: Portraits of Moree Murries*, The Commercial Gallery, Sydney
A common place, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2015 *Michael Riley - Blacktracker*, La Trobe Regional Gallery, Melbourne
- 2014 *Beauty and Strength – Portraits by Michael Riley*, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
- 2013 *Portraits 1984-1990*, The Commercial Gallery, Sydney
- 2012 *cloud and Sacrifice*, UTS Gallery, Sydney
They call me niigarr, Stills Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 *Of earth and sky: Riley*, Bangarra Dance Theatre production featuring the series *cloud*, Sydney Opera House, Sydney
- 2008 *flyblown*, Stills Gallery, Sydney
Michael Riley: Sights unseen, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2007 *Michael Riley: Sights unseen*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra and national tour
Musée du quai Branly: Monument and retrospective; permanent collection and display, Musée du quai Branly, Paris, France
- 2006 *Michael Riley: Sacrifice boxed-set release*, Stills Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 *cloud and Sacrifice*, Stills Gallery, Sydney
cloud, Museum of Sydney, Sydney
- 2002 *cloud and Empire* (photography and video), Campbelltown City Bicentennial Gallery, Sydney
cloud, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
- 2000 *cloud and Empire* (photography and video), Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney
- 1999 *flyblown*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
Yarns from the Talbragar Reserve, Dubbo Regional Gallery, New South Wales; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 1998 *flyblown*, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
- 1995 *they call me niigarr*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
- 1994 *Fence sitting*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
- 1992 *Sacrifice*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
- 1991 *A common place: Portraits of Moree Murries*, Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, United Kingdom; Hogarth Galleries, Sydney; Moree Plains Gallery, New South Wales
- 1990 *Portraits by a window*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2017 *The Boomalli Ten*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
Curtain Call, Stills Gallery, Sydney
Presence, Margaret Lawrence Gallery, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne
- 2016 *Over the fence: Contemporary Indigenous photography from the Corrigan Collection*, curated by Gordon Craig, UQ Art Museum, The University of Queensland, Brisbane
Everywhen: The Eternal Present in Indigenous Art from Australia, Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
- 2015 *Buruwi Burra (Three Skies)*, with Paddy Sims Japaljarri and Archie Moore, The Commercial Gallery, Sydney
Writing Art, curated by Scott Donovan, Artspace, Sydney

- 2014 *BLAK: Forced into images*, AAMU – Museum of Contemporary Aboriginal Art, Utrecht, The Netherlands
Cold Eels and Distant Thoughts, Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide
Men's Work, Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide
The Commercial, Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
- 2013 *Under My Skin: Contemporary Australian Photographs from the Corrigan Collection*, Rockhampton Art Gallery, Queensland
Making Change, Galleries UNSW, Sydney
Cold eels and distant thoughts, Kudos Gallery, Sydney
My Country, I Still Call Australia Home: Contemporary Art from Black Australia, Queensland Art Gallery| Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane
Crossing Cultures - The Owen and Wagner Collection of Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Art, Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio, United States
- 2012 *Light Sensitive Material - Works from the Verghis Collection*, Moree Plains Gallery, Moree
Crossing Cultures - The Owen and Wagner Collection of Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Art, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, United States;
7th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery|Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, as part of Indian artist Atul Dodiya's installation *Somersault in sandalwood sky* 2012
Maamungun: Compatriots, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, India, with the Australian Government as part of Oz Fest 2012
Cruel & Tender, Tim Melville Gallery, Auckland
Shadowlife, Asialink and Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria; Bangkok Arts and Cultural Centre, Thailand; Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan; Nanyang Academy of Fine Art, Singapore
- 2011 *Freedom riders: Art and activism 1960s to now*, University Art Gallery, University of Sydney, Sydney
Photography and place: Australian landscape photography 1970s until now, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
More than my skin, Newcastle Art Gallery, New South Wales
Cold eels and distant thoughts, University of Newcastle, New South Wales
- 2010 *Snapshot: Contemporary photography from the La Trobe University Art Collection*, La Trobe University, Victoria
art + soul, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2009 *Half light: Portraits from Black Australia*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Light sensitive: Works from the Verghis Collection, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney
Feel my scar, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney
Message Sticks: Indigenous Film Festival, Sydney Opera House
- 2008 *cloud*, Adelaide Festival, South Australia
More than my skin, Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney
- 2007 *Reveries: Photography and mortality*, National Portrait Gallery, Canberra; University Art Museum, University of Queensland, Brisbane; and Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria
- 2006 *WAVEfront*, Tokyo Wondersite, Tokyo, Japan
Prism: Contemporary Australian art, Bridgestone Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan
Melbourne Art Fair, Stills Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 Art Cologne, Germany
- 2004 *Images: Contemporary photographs by Aboriginal artists*, AAMU Museum for Contemporary Aboriginal Art, Utrecht, the Netherlands
Holy holy holy, Flinders University Art Museum, South Australia; and national tour
By the river, Sydney Opera House Studio, Sydney
- 2003 *8th Istanbul Biennial: Poetic justice*, Istanbul, Turkey
Meridian: Focus on contemporary Australian art, Sydney Festival, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 2002 *Photographica Australis*, Sala de Exposiciones del Canal de Isabel II,

- Madrid, Spain; Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney
Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
Native Title Business: Contemporary Indigenous art, national tour
High tide, Linden Centre for Contemporary Arts, Melbourne
 2001 *ARCO Contemporary Art Fair*, Madrid, Spain
FedFest, Royal Melbourne Institute for Technology, Capitol Theatre, Melbourne
Indicium: Identity in Australian contemporary photomedia, The Korean Culture & Arts Foundation, Insa Art Space, Seoul, Korea
Centenary vs Eternity, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
 2000 *Caught in the headlights*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
true, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney; Sydney Opera House, Sydney
Being Aboriginal, NSW Trade Investment Centre, Sydney
Beyond the pale: Contemporary Indigenous Art, Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
Across: An exhibition of Aboriginal art and culture, Canberra School of Art Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra
That's not Aboriginal art, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
Comfort zone, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
Biennale of contemporary art, Festival of Pacific Arts, Noumea, New Caledonia
My Country, Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales
 1999 *Living here now: Art and politics*, Perspecta '99, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Natural disasters/disasters unnatural, Monash University Art Gallery, Melbourne
Signature works, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney
Another Country, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Beyond myth: Oltre il mito, 48th Venice Biennale satellite exhibition, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Palazzo Papadopoli, Venice, Italy
 1998 *The art of place: 4th National Indigenous Heritage Art Award*, Australian Heritage Commission, Old Parliament House, Canberra
Co-existence: Australian artists against racism, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
Flesh and blood: A Sydney story 1788–1998, Museum of Sydney, Sydney
Re-take: Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander photography, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
 1997 *Indigenous Australians*, Australian Museum, Sydney

Blak on trak, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
 1996 *Chip on the shoulder*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
The art of place: 3rd National Indigenous Heritage Art Award, Australian Heritage Commission, Old Parliament House, Canberra
Guwanyi: Stories of the Redfern Aboriginal community, Museum of Sydney, Sydney
Abstracts: New Aboriginalities, Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery, Exeter, United Kingdom; 198 Contemporary Arts and Learning, London, United Kingdom
Spirit + Place, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
 1995 *On a Mission*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
Dhaguu Yandhal: Where to now?, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
 1994 *Urban focus: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
 1993 *Aratjara: Art of the First Australians*, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany; Hayward Gallery, London, United Kingdom; Louisiana Museum, Humlebaek, Denmark
Kodak Acquisition Fund: 10th anniversary show, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
NAIDOC exhibition, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 1990 *The image black, international tour*, Department of Foreign Affairs and

- Trade After 200 years: Photographs of Aboriginal and Islander Australia today*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Tagari Lia, My Family: Contemporary Aboriginal art from Australia, Third Eye Centre, Glasgow, Scotland
 Photography: Recent acquisitions, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 1989 *A Koori perspective*, Artspace, Sydney
Boomalli Breaking Boundaries, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
Gomileoi-Moree Mob, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
40 000 + 4, Bondi Pavilion, Sydney
- 1988 *ANCAAA (Association of Northern & Central Australian Aboriginal Artists) and Boomalli*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
De-facto apartheid, Performance Space, Sydney
Art and Aboriginality, Portsmouth, United Kingdom; Exhibition Hall, Sydney Opera House, Sydney
Survey of Aboriginal art, audio-visual study, Performance Space, Sydney
- 1987 *Boomalli Au-Go-Go*, inaugural exhibition, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
- 1986 *Contemporary Aboriginal photography*, Macarthur College of Advanced Education, New South Wales
NADOC '86 exhibition of Aboriginal and Islander photographers, Aboriginal Artists Gallery, Sydney
- 1984 *Koori art '84*, Artspace, Sydney
- 1983 *Contemporary Aboriginal art*, Bondi Pavilion, Sydney

FILMS

- 1999 *I don't wanna be a bludger*, collaborative film with Destiny Deacon shown at *Living here now: Art and politics*, the Perspecta '99 exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; 30-minute film
- 1998 *Songlines*; film clips and story segments for Indigenous Music Program; ABC Television; nine 30-minute episodes
- 1997 *Empire*; experimental film commissioned for 1997 Cultural Olympiad Festival of the Dreaming; ABC Television Indigenous Production Unit; 18-minute film *Tent boxers*; documentary; ABC Television – Indigenous Documentary Fund; 30-minute film
- 1996 *Blacktracker*; documentary; ABC Television – Indigenous Documentary Fund; 30-minute film
The Masters; sitcom; SBS Television; thirteen 15-minute episodes Aboriginal English; film; Department of Education and Training; 15-minute film
- 1995 *Eora*; promotional audio-visual display *projected* from laser disk, Museum of Sydney and Historic Houses Trust NSW; 60-minute film
- 1994 *Kangaroo Dancer*; promotional segments; Qantas; 12 segments A passage through the aisles, Episode 1 of *The Family* series; short experimental films based on the family for *Eat Carpet*; SBS Television; 6-minute film
- 1993 *Aratjara*; magazine piece for Blackout; ABC Television; 5-minute film *Quest for country*; experimental documentary as first episode of *From Spirit to Spirit* series, 13-part international co-production; SBS Television; 24-minute film *An afternoon in Brunswick*; starring Destiny Deacon, segment for *Blackout*; ABC Television; five 12-minute segments
- 1992 *Mother Earth*; film clip for Alice Haines; ABC Television; 3-minute film clip *Starlit bushes*; film clip for Savannah Doolan; ABC Television; 3-minute film clip *Dolores's Koori world*; comedy for *Blackout*; ABC Television; 12-minute film *The meaning of life*; film clip for Peter Wells; ABC Television; 3-minute film clip *Ibigiri Theatre Company*; segment for *Blackout*; ABC Television; 15-minute film
- 1991 *Poison*; experimental drama looking at addiction in urban Koori environment, winner of the Golden Tripod Award and Bronze Award for Best Short Television Drama at the New York Film Festival; ABC Television; 29-minute film *Malangi: A day in the life of a bark painter*; documentary on work of Dr David Malangi; ABC Television; 30-minute film

- 1990 *Frances*; film clip for Frances Peters; ABC Television; 3-minute film clip
- 1989 Alice; corporate film dealing with racism; Department of Education; 15-minute film
- 1988 *Boomalli: Five Koorie Artists*; documentary on the work of five artists from the Sydney-based Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative; Film Australia; 28-minute film
- Dreamings: The art of Aboriginal Australia*; documentary examining the work of Aboriginal artists, such as Dr David Malangi and Michael Jagamara Nelson, to accompany an exhibition of the same name curated by anthropologist Peter Sutton; Film Australia; 30-minute film

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2016 Gordon Craig, 'Over the fence: Contemporary Indigenous photography from the Corrigan Collection', exh. cat. UQ Art Museum, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, 2016
- 'Everywhen: The Eternal Present in Indigenous Art from Australia', exh. cat. Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2016
- 2015 Amanda Rowell, 'Buruwi Burra (Three Skies)', exh. cat., The Commercial Gallery, Sydney, 2015
- Stella Rosa McDonald, 'Buruwi Burra (Three Skies)', *The Art Life*, 20 May, 2015
- 2013 Brenda L. Croft, 'True beauty: Michael Riley's portraits 1984-1990', *Photofile*, Vol. 93, Spring/Summer 2013-14, pp. 33-39
- 2012 Stephen Gilchrist, *Maamungun: Compatriots*, published by Nicole Foreshew, Jonathan Jones and the Australian Government for the exhibition *Maamungun: Compatriots* at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, India
- Djon Mundine and Natalie King, *Shadowlife*, Asialink, Melbourne, Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria
- 2010 Hetti Perkins, *art + soul*, The Miegunyah Press, Melbourne, pp 216–29, 256–59
- Gael Newtown, 'Michael Riley', *Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander art: Collection highlights*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 2009 Hetti Perkins and Jonathan Jones, *Half light: Portraits from Black Australia*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, pp 110–119
- Jonathan Jones and Amanda Peacock, *Country, Culture, Community: An education kit for the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander collection*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- Nicholas Jose (ed), *Macquarie Anthology of Australian Literature*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney
- 2008 Desmond, M et al, Jonathan Jones: *Untitled (the tyranny of distance)*, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney
- 2006 Claire Armstrong (ed), *Australian Indigenous Art Commission: Musée du quai Branly*, Art & Australia, Sydney
- Nakamuro Setsuko (ed), *Prism: Contemporary Australian art*, Bridgestone Museum of Art, Ishibashi Foundation, Tokyo, Japan
- Brenda L Croft, Michael Riley: *Sights unseen*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
- 2003 Dan Cameron (curator), *Poetic justice*, 8th Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey
- 2002 Rachel Kent, Russell Storer and Vivienne Webb (curators), *Meridian: Focus on contemporary Australian art*, Sydney Festival, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- Alasdair Foster, Gael Newton and Daniel Palmer, *Photographica Australis: Exposición Sala de Exposiciones del Canal de Isabel II*, February–April 2002, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney, Sala del Canal de Isabel II, Madrid, Spain
- Lynne Seear (ed), *APT 2002: Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art*, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
- 2001 Paco Barragan, *El arte que viene, Subastas Siglo XXI*, Madrid, Spain
- 2000 Doreen Mellor, *Across: An exhibition of Indigenous art and culture*, Canberra School of Art Gallery, Institute of the Arts, Australian National

- University, Canberra
 Brenda L Croft, *Beyond the pale: Contemporary Indigenous art*, Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 1999 Art Gallery of New South Wales and authors, *Living here now: Art and politics, Perspecta '99*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 Michael Riley (photography), *Yarns from the Talbragar Reserve*, Dubbo Regional Gallery, Dubbo
- 1997 Gabrielle Pizzi (curator), *Beyond myth: Oltre il mito*, 48th Venice Biennale satellite exhibition by Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, at Palazzo Papadopoli, Venice, Edizioni Multigraf, Venice, Italy
- 1996 Kay Campbell (ed), *Abstracts: New Aboriginalities*, South West Arts Project (SWAP), United Kingdom
- Nick Waterlow OAM and Ross Mellick (curators), *Spirit + Place: Art in Australia 1861– 1996*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 1990 National Gallery of Australia, *After 200 years: Photographs of Aboriginal and Islander Australia today*, National Gallery of Australia and Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra
 Avril Quail, *A Koori perspective tour: An Artspace touring exhibition*, NSW Artspace, Sydney

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2004 Grand Prize at 11th Asian Art Biennale 2004 in Bangladesh

COMMISSIONS

Musée du quai Branly, Paris

COLLECTIONS

AAMU: Museum for Contemporary Aboriginal art
 Adelaide Festival Centre Works of Art Collection
 Art Gallery of New South Wales
 Art Gallery of Western Australia
 Corrigan Collection
 Dubbo Regional Gallery
 Edith Cowan University
 Flinders University Art Museum
 Monash Gallery of Art, City of Monash Collection
 Moree Plains Gallery
 Musée du quai Branly
 National Gallery of Australia
 National Gallery of Victoria
 National Portrait Gallery, Canberra
 Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art
 State Library of New South Wales