

# 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 *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
	<i>Cold Eels and Distant Thoughts</i> , Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide
	<i>Men's Work</i> , Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide
2013	<i>The Commercial</i> , Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne
	<i>Under My Skin: Contemporary Australian Photographs from the Corrigan Collection</i> , Rockhampton Art Gallery, Queensland
	<i>Making Change</i> , Galleries UNSW, Sydney
	<i>Cold eels and distant thoughts</i> , Kudos Gallery, Sydney
	<i>My Country, I Still Call Australia Home: Contemporary Art from Black Australia</i> , Queensland Art Gallery  Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane
2012	<i>Crossing Cultures - The Owen and Wagner Collection of Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Art</i> , Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio, United States
	<i>Light Sensitive Material - Works from the Verghis Collection</i> , Moree Plains Gallery, Moree
	<i>Crossing Cultures - The Owen and Wagner Collection of Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Art</i> , Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Hanover, United States;
	<i>7th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art</i> , Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane, as part of Indian artist Atul Dodiya's installation <i>Somersault in sandalwood sky</i> 2012
	<i>Maamungun: Compatriots</i> , Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, India, with the Australian Government as part of Oz Fest 2012
	<i>Cruel &amp; Tender</i> , Tim Melville Gallery, Auckland
	<i>Shadowlife</i> , 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	<i>Freedom riders: Art and activism 1960s to now</i> , University Art Gallery, University of Sydney, Sydney
	<i>Photography and place: Australian landscape photography 1970s until now</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
	<i>More than my skin</i> , Newcastle Art Gallery, New South Wales
2010	<i>Cold eels and distant thoughts</i> , University of Newcastle, New South Wales
	<i>Snapshot: Contemporary photography from the La Trobe University Art Collection</i> , La Trobe University, Victoria
	<i>art + soul</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
2009	<i>Half light: Portraits from Black Australia</i> , Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
	<i>Light sensitive: Works from the Verghis Collection</i> , Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney
	<i>Feel my scar</i> , Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney
2008	<i>Message Sticks: Indigenous Film Festival</i> , Sydney Opera House
	<i>cloud</i> , Adelaide Festival, South Australia
	<i>More than my skin</i> , Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney
2007	<i>Reveries: Photography and mortality</i> , National Portrait Gallery, Canberra; University Art Museum, University of Queensland, Brisbane; and Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Victoria
2006	<i>WAVEfront</i> , Tokyo Wondersite, Tokyo, Japan
	<i>Prism: Contemporary Australian art</i> , Bridgestone Museum of Art, Tokyo, Japan
	Melbourne Art Fair, Stills Gallery, Sydney
2005	Art Cologne, Germany
2004	<i>Images: Contemporary photographs by Aboriginal artists</i> , AAMU Museum for Contemporary Aboriginal Art, Utrecht, the Netherlands
	<i>Holy holy holy</i> , Flinders University Art Museum, South Australia; and national tour
	<i>By the river</i> , Sydney Opera House Studio, Sydney
2003	<i>8th Istanbul Biennial: Poetic justice</i> , Istanbul, Turkey
	<i>Meridian: Focus on contemporary Australian art</i> , Sydney Festival, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
2002	<i>Photographica Australis</i> , 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  
*ARCO Contemporary Art Fair*, Madrid, Spain  
 2001 *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  
 1999 *My Country*, Lismore Regional Gallery, New South Wales  
*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  
 1996 *Blak on trak*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney  
*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  
 1995 *Spirit + Place*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney  
*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

	<p><i>today</i>, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra</p> <p><i>Tagari Lia, My Family: Contemporary Aboriginal art from Australia</i>, Third Eye Centre, Glasgow, Scotland</p> <p>Photography: Recent acquisitions, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra</p>
1989	<p><i>A Koori perspective</i>, Artspace, Sydney</p> <p><i>Boomalli Breaking Boundaries</i>, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney</p> <p><i>Gomileroi-Moree Mob</i>, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney</p> <p><i>40 000 + 4</i>, Bondi Pavilion, Sydney</p>
1988	<p><i>ANCAAA (Association of Northern &amp; Central Australian Aboriginal Artists) and Boomalli</i>, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney</p> <p><i>De-facto apartheid</i>, Performance Space, Sydney</p> <p><i>Art and Aboriginality</i>, Portsmouth, United Kingdom; Exhibition Hall, Sydney Opera House, Sydney</p> <p><i>Survey of Aboriginal art</i>, audio-visual study, Performance Space, Sydney</p>
1987	<p><i>Boomalli Au-Go-Go</i>, inaugural exhibition, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney</p>
1986	<p><i>Contemporary Aboriginal photography</i>, Macarthur College of Advanced Education, New South Wales</p> <p><i>NADOC '86 exhibition of Aboriginal and Islander photographers</i>, Aboriginal Artists Gallery, Sydney</p>
1984	<p><i>Koori art '84</i>, Artspace, Sydney</p>
1983	<p><i>Contemporary Aboriginal art</i>, Bondi Pavilion, Sydney</p>
FILMS	
1999	<p><i>I don't wanna be a bludger</i>, collaborative film with Destiny Deacon shown at <i>Living here now: Art and politics</i>, the Perspecta '99 exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; 30-minute film</p>
1998	<p><i>Songlines</i>; film clips and story segments for Indigenous Music Program; ABC Television; nine 30-minute episodes</p>
1997	<p><i>Empire</i>; experimental film commissioned for 1997 Cultural Olympiad Festival of the Dreaming; ABC Television Indigenous Production Unit; 18-minute film <i>Tent boxers</i>; documentary; ABC Television – Indigenous Documentary Fund; 30- minute film</p>
1996	<p><i>Blacktracker</i>; documentary; ABC Television – Indigenous Documentary Fund; 30- minute film</p> <p><i>The Masters</i>; sitcom; SBS Television; thirteen 15-minute episodes Aboriginal English; film; Department of Education and Training; 15-minute film</p>
1995	<p><i>Eora</i>; promotional audio-visual display <i>projected</i> from laser disk, Museum of Sydney and Historic Houses Trust NSW; 60-minute film</p>
1994	<p><i>Kangaroo Dancer</i>; promotional segments; Qantas; 12 segments A passage through the aisles, Episode 1 of <i>The Family</i> series; short experimental films based on the family for <i>Eat Carpet</i>; SBS Television; 6-minute film</p>
1993	<p><i>Aratjara</i>; magazine piece for Blackout; ABC Television; 5-minute film Quest for country; experimental documentary as first episode of <i>From Spirit to Spirit</i> series, 13-part international co-production; SBS Television; 24-minute film <i>An afternoon in Brunswick</i>; starring Destiny Deacon, segment for <i>Blackout</i>; ABC Television; five 12-minute segments</p>
1992	<p><i>Mother Earth</i>; film clip for Alice Haines; ABC Television; 3-minute film clip <i>Starlit bushes</i>; film clip for Savanah Doolan; ABC Television; 3-minute film clip <i>Dolores's Koori world</i>; comedy for <i>Blackout</i>; ABC Television; 12-minute film <i>The meaning of life</i>; film clip for Peter Wells; ABC Television; 3-minute film clip Ilbigiri Theatre Company; segment for <i>Blackout</i>; ABC Television; 15-minute film</p>
1991	<p><i>Poison</i>; 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 <i>Malangi: A day in the life of a bark painter</i>; documentary on work of Dr David Malangi; ABC Television; 30-minute film</p>
1990	<p><i>Frances</i>; film clip for Frances Peters; ABC Television; 3-minute film clip</p>

- 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 Foresheew, 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

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

#### GRANTS AND AWARDS

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