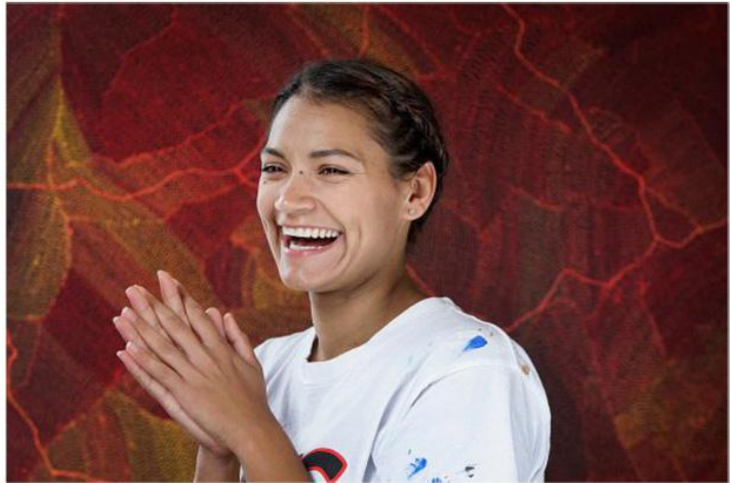




ABORIGINAL ART GALLERIES

SARRITA KING



‘There is so much beauty in this world and it’s hard to capture it all, but I can try.’ (Sarrita King)
At 32 years old Sarrita King lives in Darwin, N.T where she spent most of her youth. The Northern Territory continues to be the source of much of her creative inspiration along with the stories her father, the late, William King Jungala, shared with her.

She lives with her partner, Chad and her sons Steele and Grange and splits her time between family and working in the studio. Sarrita’s new family has only strengthened her desire to share her culture and stories through her art.

In Adelaide South Australia, Sarrita King was born on March 5 1988. She is younger sister to artist Tarris King and daughter of renowned influential indigenous artist, the late William King Jungala. Her combinations of styles, philosophies and pictorial story-telling have become characteristic of her work, resulting in acclaim and world-recognition as an iconic artist in her own right.

‘My works try to capture philosophies and elements of life that everyone can relate to and feel a connection to. This brings the viewer into the artwork and helps... them to understand Aboriginal culture.’ (Sarrita King)

Spending her formative years in the harsh and exacting Northern Territory, she was close to the spirit of her people, the Gurindji tribe and she daily felt the degradation, reparation, hope and beauty of a land that was in constant flux, turmoil and renewal. At the age of 16 she began to paint. The sand hills, lightning, space, direction, mass, torrential rain, fire, rivers of sand – everywhere the inspiration was rife and plentiful. Representing these visually riveting and dramatic Australian icons on canvas was the challenge that Sarrita accepted and dominated.

She first began exhibiting her work in Adelaide in 2006. From here it was like an explosion of interest and popularity. Australia, and then the world, couldn't get enough of her inimitable work. In 2009 she was asked to exhibit in Paris. It was like a dream come true. 'To be working and displaying down the hall from greats such as Dali and Picasso was priceless. Also to be so far from home and still see our culture upheld and represented and respected in the Quai Branly museum just made me so happy for Aboriginal art and culture.'

This was the highlight of her career to date and is just one of many exhibitions that has drawn to her, the fame and accolades she so richly deserves.

A modern day icon

Combining the rich traditional culture and methods of indigenous artists with contemporary attitudes and new techniques has seen Sarrita develop a new style of indigenous art. She has striven to remain faithful to the old whilst embracing the new, demonstrating that indigenous art is not just about what has been, but about highlighting the here, the now and the future.

'The new generation has a duty to share and continue the path set before us by the earlier generations. The motivation to create and share my artwork comes from the desire to involve the world with the rich Australian indigenous heritage.'

'The Lightning Series'

Darwin and the Northern Territory of Australia are renowned for their dramatic bi-annual lightning and storm shows. Researchers and experts travel from all over the world to see the spectacular skyward schisms and ruptures. For indigenous Australian artists it's a time to revel in the portents of change, renewal, rebirth and hope. The cracking, searing lightning that cuts the sky and reflects the land is passionately realised in Sarrita's Lightning Series where she combines the elements into inseparable reflective entities. The colours, lines, shapes, depths and light all dance together in a transformational ensemble that leaves the viewer aghast with anticipation for more.

The 'Our Land Series'

Sarrita has recently produced the Our Land Series which is very much a contemporary and innovative interpretation of the land in which we live.

'It is a very minimalist series with lines intersecting and a thick coloured circle representing home. The intersecting lines show the ever-changing land as it is damaged and continues to repair. Just like our lives, we adapt to the world around us and our experiences. I have tried to reflect the beauty of this process.'

My Country's Stories

Collaboratively reflecting the philosophies of their father, sisters Sarrita and Tarris worked on this series of paintings to peel back the layers of a story that define a region. It's about structure and language of earth and the seeing-eye. An excellent series creation that showcases the union of the sisters' talents, visions and future journeys.