



Reko Rennie

Reko Rennie is a Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay/Gummaroi man, born in Melbourne, Australia in 1974. Through his art, Reko explores what it means to be an urban Aboriginal in contemporary Australian society. The National Gallery of Victoria Indigenous curator, Stephen Gilchrist, highly commended the artist's work for his uncompromising politics and technical virtuosity.

Rennie received no formal artistic training but as a teenager discovered graffiti, which would become an all-consuming passion. He quickly began producing original art on the streets of Melbourne. Subsequently Rennie has matured into an interrogative and highly innovative artist. His art and installations continually explore issues of identity, race, law and justice, land rights, stolen generations and other issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in contemporary society.

Rennie's work is characterised by vibrant colours, line work and intricate stencil imagery. Drawing inspiration from his Aboriginal heritage, the artist recreates traditional images in a contemporary context using spraypaint and stencils. His work often features the characteristic flora and fauna imagery that represent his community.

Rennie has exhibited in several solo shows including 'Native' at the Dianne Tanzer Gallery in Melbourne and 'Bora', at LeMUR Association in Paris and numerous group exhibitions in Australia. His work is held in the Art Gallery of Western Australia and in Koorie Heritage Trust. He has been the recipient of many major awards including the 2009 Cite International des Arts Australia Council Residency, Paris.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010
- Native, Dianne Tanzer Gallery, Melbourne
 - Bora, LeMUR Association, Paris

- 2009
- (ab) original, Dianne Tanzer Gallery, Melbourne
 - Traditional, City of Port Phillip, Melbourne
 - Wallpaper, Koorie Heritage Trust, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010
- White Hot, Dianne Tanzer Gallery + projects, Melbourne.

- 2009
- Nothing Out of the Ordinary, Nellie Castan Gallery and Dianne Tanzer Gallery + projects, Melbourne.
 - Octopus 9 - curated by Stephen Gilchrist (NGV), Gertrude Contemporary Art Spaces, Melbourne
 - Rapprochement – curated by Reko Rennie, Manningham Gallery

- 2008
- Anonymous Drawings # 9, Blumenweiss, Berlin
 - Gulpa Ngarwul, Koorie Heritage Trust, Melbourne
 - Victorian Indigenous Art Awards - Finalist, Boscia Gallery Abbotsford



- Black & White - Advance Australia Fair?, Famous When Dead, West Melbourne
- Black & White with Shades of Grey, Pigment Gallery, Melbourne
- Small Works 2008, Brunswick St Gallery, Melbourne
- Indigenous Bayside Perspectives, Bayside City Council, Melbourne
- Moving Images - Images of Reconciliation, Manningham Gallery, Victoria
- Famous When Dead, Famous When Dead, Melbourne
- Linden Postcard Show, LINDEN Centre for Contemporary Arts, St Kilda

2007

- Nguurramban: From Where We Are – curated by Jirra Lulla Harvey, LINDEN Centre for Contemporary Arts, St Kilda
- Melbourne International Stencil Festival - Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane & Perth
- Eastbank Centre, Shepparton
- Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Ballarat
- Gippsland Art Gallery, Sale
- Victorian Indigenous Art Awards, Koorie Heritage Trust

PRIZES / GRANTS /
RESIDENCES

2010

- Finalist - 27th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- Finalist - Sunshine Coast Art Prize 2010
- Finalist - Fletcher Jones Contemporary Art Prize
- Shanghai Exposition, Australia Pavilion

2009

- Cite Internationale des Arts, Australia Council Residency, Paris
- Finalist - Royal Bank Scotland Emerging Artist Award (formerly ABN AMBRO Award)
- Arts Grant - City of Port Phillip

2008

- Winner - Victorian Indigenous Art Award
- Highly Commended - Gumbri: White Dove, by NGV Indigenous Curator

SELECTED
COLLECTIONS

- Art Gallery of Western Australia
- Art Bank
- AFL
- Koorie Heritage Trust
- Private collections