

Michael Riley

Wiradjuri/Kamilaroi

1960–2004

born Dubbo, New South Wales, Australia

Exhibitions

Selected solo exhibitions

- 2012 *They call me niigarr*, Stills Gallery, Paddington
- 2010 *Of earth and sky – Riley*, Bangarra Dance Theatre production featuring the series *cloud 2000*
- 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
- 2002 *cloud* and *Empire* (photography and video), Campbelltown City Bicentennial Gallery, Campbelltown
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 Art 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

2012 *Maamungun: Compatriots*, with Nicole Foresheew and Jonathan Jones, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, India

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, The University of Sydney

Photography and place: Australian landscape photography 1970s until now, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

More than my skin, Newcastle Region Art Gallery, New South Wales

Cold eels and distant thoughts, The 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, New South Wales

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, touring to University Art Museum, University of Queensland, 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*, Aboriginal Art Museum, Utrecht, the Netherlands
Holy holy holy, Flinders University Art Museum, South Australia, and national tour
By the river, Sydney Opera House Studio, Sydney
- 2003 *Poetic justice*, Istanbul Biennial, 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
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
Caught in the headlights, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney
- 2000/1 *true*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Co-operative, Sydney; Sydney Opera House, Sydney
- 2000 *Being Aboriginal*, NSW Trade Investment Centre, Sydney
Beyond the pale: contemporary Indigenous Art, Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia
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: otre il mito, 48th Venice Biennale satellite exhibition, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Palazzo Papadopoli, Venice, Italy

- 1998 *The art of place: fourth 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
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: third National Indigenous Heritage Art Award, Australian Heritage Commission, Old Parliament House, Canberra
Guwany: 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
Gomileroi-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, The Performance Space, Sydney
Art and Aboriginality, Portsmouth, United Kingdom; Exhibition Hall, Sydney Opera House, Sydney
Survey of Aboriginal art, audio-visual study, The 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, Nepean, Sydney
Contemporary Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander photography, 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*, in collaboration with Destiny Deacon, at *Living here now: art and politics*, Perspecta 99, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; 30-minute film
- 1998 *Songlines*, Indigenous Music Program, film clips and story segments, ABC Television; nine 30-minute episodes
- 1997 *Empire*, experimental film commissioned for Cultural Olympiad Festival of The Dreaming, ABC Television; 18-minute film
Tent boxers, documentary, ABC Television; 30-minute film
- 1996 *Blacktracker*, documentary, ABC Television; 30-minute film
The Masters, sitcom, SBS Television; 13 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; 60-minute film
- 1994 *Kangaroo Dancer*, promotional segments, QANTAS Airlines; 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' a 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
 Ilbigiri Theatre Company, segment for 'Blackout', ABC Television; 15-minute film
- 1991 *Poison*, experimental drama looking at addiction in urban Koori environment, ABC Television; 30-minute film (winner of Golden Tripod Award and Bronze Award for Best Short Television Drama, New York Film Festival)
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 co-operative, Film Australia; 28-minute film
Dreamings, documentary examining the work of Aboriginal artists, Film Australia, ABC Television and Imparja Television; 30-minute film

Bibliography

Selected books and catalogues

Stephen Gilchrist, *Maamungun: Compatriots*, published by Nicole Foreshew, Jonathan Jones, and Australian Government, for exhibition at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, India 2012

Djon Mundine and Natalie King, *Shadowlife*, Asialink, Melbourne, Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria 2012

Hetti Perkins, *art + soul*, The Miegunyah Press, Melbourne 2010, pp 216–29, 256–59

Gael Newtown, 'Michael Riley', *Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander art – collection highlights*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra 2010

Hetti Perkins and Jonathan Jones, *Half light: portraits from Black Australia*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney 2009, pp 110–19

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 2009

Nicholas Jose (ed), *Macquarie Anthology of Australian Literature*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney 2009

Desmond, M et al, *Jonathan Jones: untitled (the tyranny of distance)*, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation, Sydney 2008

Claire Armstrong (ed), *Australian Indigenous Art Commission: Musée du quai Branly*, Art & Australia, Sydney 2006

Nakamuro Setsuko (ed), *Prism: contemporary Australian art*, Bridgestone Museum of Art, Ishibashi Foundation, Tokyo, Japan 2006

Brenda L Croft, *Michael Riley: sights unseen*, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra 2006

Dan Cameron (curator), *Poetic justice*, Istanbul Biennial, Istanbul, Turkey 2003

Rachel Kent, Russell Storer and Vivienne Webb (curators), *Meridian: focus on contemporary Australian art*, Sydney Festival, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney 2002

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 2002

Lynne Seear (ed), *APT 2002: Asia–Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art*, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane 2002

Paco Barragan, *El arte que viene*, Subastas Siglo XXI, Madrid, Spain 2001

Doreen Mellor, *Across: an exhibition of indigenous art and culture*, Canberra School of Art Gallery, Institute of the Arts, Australian National University, Canberra 2000

Brenda L Croft, *Beyond the pale: contemporary indigenous art*, Adelaide Biennial of Australian Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide 2000

Art Gallery of New South Wales and authors, *Living here now: art and politics*, Perspecta 99, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney 1999

Michael Riley (photography), *Yarns from the Talbragar Reserve*, Dubbo Regional Art Gallery, Dubbo 1999

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 1997

Kay Campbell (ed), *Abstracts: new Aboriginalities*, South West Arts Project (SWAP), United Kingdom 1996

Nick Waterlow OAM and Ross Mellick (curators), *Spirit + Place: art in Australia 1861–1996*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, 1996

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 1990

Avril Quail, *A Koori perspective tour: an Artspace touring exhibition*, NSW Artspace, Sydney 1990

Selected articles

Patricia Anderson, 'From bark and stone to board and canvas', *Australian Art Review*, 11 August 2011

Jeni Porter, 'Black dreaming takes wing in France', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 July 2005

Djon Mundine, 'Michael Riley: obituary', *RealTime*, no 63, October–November 2004, p 54

'Featured artist: Michael Riley', *RealTime*, no 50, August–September 2002, p 13

Susan Best, 'Place-making in a liminal zone', *Art & Australia*, vol 38, no 3, 2001, pp 428–433

Anita-Gigi Budai, *Monument*, no 35, April/May 2000, p 109

Daryll Collins, 'Artnotes', *Art Monthly*, no 129, May 2000, p 33

D J Huppatz, 'Beyond the pale', *Like*, no 12, Winter 2000, pp 54–55

John Kean, 'Beyond the pale', *Artlink*, vol 20, no 1, 2000, pp 68–69

Brenda Croft, 'Exhibition review', *Periphery*, number 40–41, Spring/Summer 1999/2000, pp 52–5

John Muirhead, 'Empire: Michael Riley', *Artlink*, vol 19, no 3, 1999

C De Lorenzo, 'Delayed Exposure, Contemporary Aboriginal Photography', *Art & Australia*, vol 31, no 1, Spring 1993

Brenda L Croft, 'Blak lik mi', *Art & Australia*, vol 31, no 1, 1993

Selected reviews

Phoenix Bryant, 'Bangarra Dance Theatre: of earth and sky', (review of Bangarra Dance Theatre production *Of earth and sky – Riley* featuring the series *cloud 2000*), *ArtsHub*, 6 July 2010

Dione Joseph, 'Of Earth and Sky', (review of Bangarra Dance Theatre production *Of earth and sky – Riley* featuring the series *cloud 2000*), *Australian Stage*, 4 July 2010

Cameron Pegg, 'Bangarra review', (review of Bangarra Dance Theatre production *Of earth and sky – Riley* featuring the series *cloud 2000*), *Scene*, July 2010

Bonny Dot Cassidy, 'Exorcising types', *The Art Life*, 15 March 2008

Robert McFarlane, 'Sights unseen', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20 March 2008

Peter Vincent, 'Michael Riley review', *Message Stick*, ABC Television, 27 July 2008

Dan Edwards, 'Michael Riley: photographer and filmmaker; part two: the films – buried histories', *RealTime*, no 77, February–March 2007, p 15

Robert Nelson, 'Michael Riley: sights unseen', *The Age*, 10 January 2007

Dan Edwards, 'Michael Riley: photographer and filmmaker; part one: spirit, land, image', *RealTime*, no 76, December–January 2006, p 20

Lenny Ann Low, 'You can take the boy out of Dubbo, but he'll bring his memories', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4–5 December 2003, p 7

'Today's best', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 January 2003, p 14

Felicity Fenner, 'Cryptic kitchen images', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 30 September 1994

Awards and prizes

2004 Grand Prize at 11th Asian Art Biennale, Bangladesh

Commissions

Musée du Quai Branly, Paris

Collections

AAMU – Museum for Contemporary Aboriginal art, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Adelaide Festival Centre Works of Art Collection, South Australia

Art Gallery of New South Wales

Art Gallery of Western Australia

Dubbo Regional Gallery, New South Wales

Edith Cowan University, Western Australia

Flinders University, South Australia

Monash Gallery of Art, City of Monash Collection in Victoria

Moree Plains Gallery, New South Wales

National Gallery of Australia, Australian Capital Territory

National Gallery of Victoria

Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art