

Claude Carter
Born 1971
Skin Jungkurra
Language Goonyiandi
Country Bawoorooga

Claude was born in 1971, He has been painting seriously since 2005. His wife, Andrea Pindan, also an artist introduced him to painting. Both Claude and Andrea have a strong graphic quality to their work. Together with their four children and another two of Claude's and another child, (his sister's) they live in a small community called Bawoorooga, made up mostly of family members. This is situated on the Great Northern highway approximately 90 kilometres from Fitzroy Crossing, towards Halls Creek. Claude sought the approval of his elders and then went ahead and set up his community in 2000. Without the help of Government agencies and Land Councils, he and his family struggled to establish their community. Later assistance was provided and they now have solar power, a bore and tank water and individual camps and a raised donga with verandah and a large roof. Claude works constantly to improve his community; much of the proceeds of his painting is invested back in to it.

Claude often talks about Aboriginal concepts in kartiya, (white people) terms and refers to his culture and his painting in a way that we can all make sense of and feel. Claude really loves his painting and gets a lot of satisfaction out of it. Painting helps him clarify and distil his thoughts about the places and country that are immensely important to him and his people. As part of the process of painting, he first visits his country to feel the presence of his ancestors. It is not until after he has returned to the Bawoorooga that the ideas for his work begin to emerge. Back home he says he can feel his ancestors; hear the old people and the children talking, laughing, playing and singing. Claude says that his painting comes to him from the dirt, the water, the rocks, the trees, the animals, the people and from the sacred places. He feels the land and culture through his stomach and through his heart and conveys these painted emotional responses, to us the viewer.

Solo exhibitions

2008 Wayanda, Goorroola, Barnda, Brigitte Braun Gallery, Melbourne

2007 Doorloo, Jaman.ga Brigitte Braun Art Dealer @ fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne

Group Exhibitions

2006 Depth and Divergence, Cullity Gallery, Perth

Collections

Murdoch University Perth, Artbank, private collections in Australia and England

