

Vincent Namatjira

'I'm interested in people and their stories, and how someone from today is connected with the past. I like to paint people who are famous, and paint them here in my community, painting them in the desert puts them into an unexpected place. Having just a little bit of humour can take the power out of a serious situation, whether something is happening to you right now, or it happened long ago – it let's you be in a little bit of control again, you can get a bit of cheeky revenge.'

Vincent Namatjira, 2016

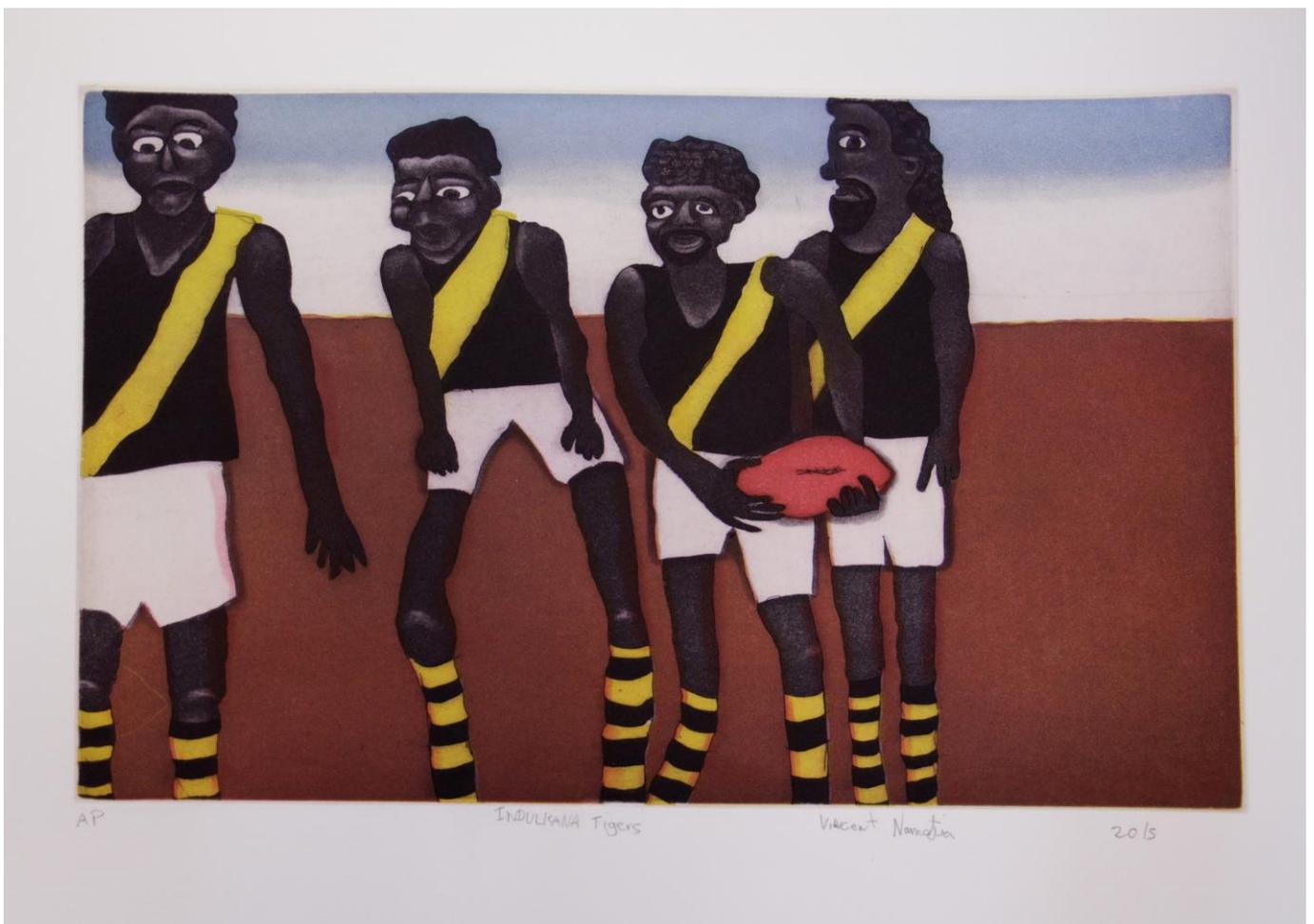
"I hope my grandfather would be quite proud, maybe smiling down on me; because I won't let him go. I just keep carrying him on, his name and our family's stories."

About the Artist

Namatjira is a Western Arrernte man from Hermannsburg, west of Alice Springs. After his mother died when he was six, he and his sister lived in foster care in Perth. He returned to live with his extended family in Hermannsburg when he was 18. He now lives in the remote community of Indulkana, in the Anungu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands in far northwest South Australia. Vincent Namatjira says he wants to find his own authentic style of painting and to broaden the meaning of the Namatjira name beyond water colours. [<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/booksandarts/vincent-namatjira/6379900>]

Critical voice

Bold, painterly and conceptually rich, Vincent Namatjira's work has gained significant recognition in Australia and abroad. Namatjira's imagery calls on Australia's colonial history, with recurring references to Captain Cook and the Queen. His observational works also chart his personal history and pay tribute to his great grandfather, Albert Namatjira, a renowned watercolourist well known for his iconic images of Central Australia. Albert Namatjira was the first Aboriginal person to be granted Australian citizenship, and the first Aboriginal person to win the Archibald Prize, Australia's most prestigious portrait prize. Dianne Tanzer



About the artwork: "Indulkana Tigers", 2015

Other relevant works

"Albert Namatjira receiving coronation medal by Her Majesty", 2014, Acrylic on Canvas

"Albert Namatjira Becoming an Australian Citizen", 2014, Acrylic on Canvas

"Albert and Vincentt", 2015, Acrylic on Canvas

"Declaration", 2014, Acrylic on Canvas

"The Queen and me", 2016, Acrylic on Canvas, acquired by the British Museum



<https://aboriginalartandculture.wordpress.com/2014/11/09/the-namatjira-legend-lives-on/>

Senior students

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