Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4088

Bates, Fiona

Occupation Artist, Tour operator, Welfare worker

Summary

A member of the Barkandji people, Fiona Bates is an artist, tour guide, and member of the Broken Hill Aboriginal Justice Group.

Details

Fiona Bates is the second daughter of Muriel Riley and lives at Broken Hill, New South Wales. As a child she lived for some time with her uncle, accomplished artist Badger Bates. Accompanying him on field trips, she learned about the Aboriginal way of living, Aboriginal stories, and how to express the meaning of those stories through art. Fiona's own style of art encompasses sketching with lead pencil, watercolours, pastels, charcoals, acrylic paints and ochre, as well as lino cuts.

In 2008, Fiona won first prize in the open section of the Far Western Emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Prize for her sketch of a canoe tree that was carved by her own great-grandmother.

Fiona has three children. She is a member of the Broken Hill Aboriginal Justice Group and works as a tour guide, informed by a detailed knowledge of the Aboriginal art found in and around the Broken Hill region and created by members of up to seven different tribes in far western New South Wales.

Published resources

Site Exhibition
Unbroken Spirit: Women in Broken Hill, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2009,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/bh/bh-home.html

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Private hands (These records may not be readily available)
Interview with Fiona Bates

Author Details
Barbara Lemon

Created 3 March 2009
Last modified 12 February 2019