

Miriam Charlie.

b. 1965, Borroloola / Yanyuwa Country, Northern Territory; lives and works in Borroloola & Darwin
Garrwa / Yanyuwa language groups

Miriam Charlie's photographs show the reality of her community and her Country in a form traversing documentary and art photography.

A proud Garrwa / Yanyuwa woman, Miriam Charlie has lived her entire life in Borroloola, 1,000 kilometres south east of Darwin, documenting community life with a Polaroid camera. The intimacy of her photos is reminiscent of our own family photographs, reframing the experience of life in a remote community through the lens of compassion, dignity and respect. This low-fi technology removes the need for bulky equipment and editing, retaining complete agency over her projects.

Miriam is telling a contemporary, remote community story through her unique perceptive, representing a turning point in documentary photography. Each polaroid is an individual object - not to be replicated but original and unique with Miriam's handwritten notes.



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COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Victoria
Monash Gallery of Art

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Getting to Borroloola*, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney

2022 *Lockdown 2022*, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
Miriam Charlie: The Promise of Housing, The University of Sydney

2020 *Miriam Charlie: My Country No Home*, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 *de-centre re-centre*, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, Perth

2024 *Mother Country*, Landskrona Foto Festival, Sweden
Mother Country, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne

2021 *Bowness Prize 2022*, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne

2021 *Habitat: Ways of Living*, Canberra Museum and Gallery, Canberra

2020 *You Are Here*, PHOTO 2021 International Festival of Photography, Melbourne

2019 *TARNANTHI*, Art Gallery of SA, Adelaide

2017 *An Unorthodox Flow of Images*, Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne

2016 *Social Licence*, The Cross Art Projects, Sydney

2015 *We are in Wonder LAND*, University of NSW Galleries, Sydney

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Guardian, 'Waiting for too long': Why Miriam Charlie photographs overcrowded Indigenous housing', Isabella Moore, 16 October 2022

Overland, 'That waiting business: housing at Borroloola', Miriam Charlie, 13 July 2020

Artlink, 'Miriam Charlie: No country, no home', Miriam Charlie, 1 June 2016

ABC News, 'Gulf to Gallery: Indigenous photographer Miriam Charlie learns craft to showcase community', Stephanie Zillman, 26 May 2016