

Petrena Ariston, Non-Executive Director

Bio

Petrena and her husband Alex started Katherine Art Gallery in the NT in 1997 and since 2000 has worked full time in the Gallery interacting with artists. She says that her greatest pleasure has been getting to understand what their art means to them and giving them a place where they could come and feel at home and paint their story.

Being in Katherine, visitors always asked her where they could experience and interact with Aboriginal culture and so she and Alex decided to provide them with that opportunity. The cultural experience they developed with Manuel Pamkal won several brolga awards and in 2023 it was awarded the People's Choice which she reckons is the best one to win.

At the end of 2021 Alex passed away leaving her to open their new gallery. It was his dream, and her family and staff worked very hard to make it come true. Successfully it seems, because they won the brolga business growth award in 2022. She applied to join the board because she feels she has a good understanding of the art scene and trusted relationship with Aboriginal artists and their families.