



# Short St. Gallery



## GRACE KEMARRE ROBINYA

Born: 1942  
Birth Place: Ntaria  
Language Group: Anmattyarre / Arrente  
Region: Western / Central Desert

### Biography

Robinya was born and raised in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), her father was a Rubuntja from Mt Hay (Urre), and her mother was an Ungkwanaka from Running Water (Irremangkere). Robinya has fond recollections of sewing and playing sport at the Lutheran Mission of Hermannsburg, but admits she eloped at only sixteen with her husband, and never looked back! She married and travelled to Coniston Station with her husband. There she had her children, surrounded by cousins and elders in the then thriving Aboriginal camp located near the then operating station. Her children claim as their father's Country, Paddy's Well, north of 20 Mile Waterhole on Napperby Station.

An artist and seed jeweller of many years standing, Robinya hot-wires and paints traditional patterns onto gum nuts, which she threads together with the Innernte (Batwing Coral) and other seeds she collects during winter. Robinya's paintings have always been highly considered and labour intensive, and generally distinguished by very neat multi-layered dot work, balanced colour schemes and symmetrical compositions. More recently, Robinya's figurative paintings, often near-miniatures, detail important locations and events in her life: her childhood at Hermannsburg Mission and surrounding Ntaria region, or visits to her beloved Irremangkere. She also records details of station life at Coniston and Napperby Stations, where she and her husband worked as a domestic, and ringer respectively, while raising their family. A frequent return visitor to Laramba Aboriginal Community now established on Napperby Station, Robinya also documents exciting football and softball carnivals in which her grandsons and granddaughters feature, playing for the winning Anmatyerr teams. These and other works detail life in the remote Aboriginal communities in which Robinya has lived throughout her life.



# Short St. Gallery

## Solo Exhibitions

2016 Raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT Alherramp - Stories from My Family's Country

## Group Exhibitions

- 2019 We from the centre, travelling to the ocean, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2018 Strong Women Painting, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2017 Tangentyere Artists Christmas Show, Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2017 Mparntwe & Ntaria Itweke-Itwe Mob, Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2017 Desert Mob, Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs, NT
- 2017 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin Convention Centre, NT
- 2016 Town Camp Yarns, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2016 Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs, NT Desert Mob
- 2016 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin NT
- 2016, Solo within a Group Exhibition with Ewyenper Atwatye, Hermannsburg Potters and Y Yarrenyty Artere at Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs Arrweketye Mob
- 2016 Aboriginal Art Marketplace, Yulara Tjunga Festival
- 2015 Tandanya Cultural Centre Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art
- 2015 Convention Centre, Darwin NT Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
- 2014 Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery Sydney NSW Figuratively Speaking: Town Camp artists tell their stories
- 2014 Araluen Cultural Precinct Alice Springs NT Desert Mob 2014
- 2014 Tangentyere Artists Group Show New Works: Salon Show
- 2014 Desert Members Exhibition 2014 Seoul Open Art Fair
- 2014 Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists, A Survey
- 2013 Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT New Work by Tangentyere Artists
- 2013 Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Open Day - New Art Centre
- 2013 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob Exhibition
- 2013 Central Craft, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists
- 2013 Raft Art Space, Alice Springs NT Our Way, Their Way - Group Show with Yarrenyty Artere Artists
- 2012 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob Exhibition
- 2012 Short Street Gallery, Broome WA Town Camp Art - Tangentyere Artists
- 2012 4 Elder Street Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Open Day
- 2012 Cooe Aboriginal Art Gallery, Sydney NSW Songlines - A Cooe Christmas
- 2012 William Mora Gallery, Melbourne VIC Tangentyere Artists - Recent Paintings
- 2012 Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Exhibition – Human Rights FilmFestival
- 2012 Convention Centre, Darwin NT Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair



# Short St. Gallery

- 2011 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob Exhibition  
2011 Olive Pink Botanical Gardens, Alice Springs NT Human Rights Film Festival  
2011 Royal Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne VIC Melbourne Affordable Art Fair  
2011 Japingka Indigenous Fine Art Gallery, Fremantle WA Our Homes: Town Camp & Beyond  
2011 Bright Gallery, VIC Time and Place - Group Indigenous Art Show  
2011 Convention Centre, Darwin NT Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair  
2010 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob Exhibition  
2010 Mossenson Gallery, Melbourne VIC Tjintu Kutjupa  
2010 Peta Appleyard Gallery, Alice Springs NT Coming Together  
2010 ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore Urban Aboriginal Art - A Survey Show  
2009 Japingka Indigenous Fine Art Gallery, Fremantle WA Anwernekenhe Ayeye  
2008 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob Exhibition  
2008 Japingka Indigenous Fine Art Gallery, Fremantle WA Town Camps and Coloured Mission Blankets  
2008 Birrung Gallery, Sydney NSW My House - Central Australian Art Centre Show  
2008 John Gordon Gallery, Coffs Harbour NSW Telling the Town Camp Story  
2007 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob Exhibition  
2007 Birrung Gallery, Sydney NSW Alice Springs Art  
2006 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Inaugural Town Camps Exhibition

## **Bibliography**

- 2012 Mother Courage, Warwick Thornton. Grace Robinya played Thorntons grandmother. Commissioned by DOCUMENTA (13) and ACMI.  
2017 Artsits Profile, Darren Joregnsen Art Collector Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Special Edition