



Short St. Gallery

Freda Warlapinni

Born	c.1928 – 1/12/2003
Language Group	Tiwi
Region	Tiwi Islands

Bibliography

Freda was born around 1928 in the bush on her own country Mirrikawuyanga on Melville Island. Catholic Missionaries raised Freda after she was taken from her parents. She did not know her age and may even have been born later than 1923. She remembered being at Pirlangimpi on Melville Island during the Second World War and hiding from the planes as they flew over to bomb Darwin. Freda lived on Bathurst Island until she moved to Milikapiti on Melville Island about 1970 when her husband Alvin John Burunjamidi and her brother-in-law were working at the local sawmill. She had 4 children: her first child Linus was born in 1950 and her youngest Pamela was born in 1963. Her painting experience was specific to painting for ceremonies until 1996 when she had the opportunity to paint on canvas and paper at Jilamara, and later printmaking. Her own style of art was very influenced by watching her father and the designs he created painting on ceremonial pukumani poles. The late artist's work has been exhibited throughout Australia and abroad, and is represented in national and international collections. Freda was a woman of seeming contradiction. Both forceful and frail, her strength of spirit belied her petite physical appearance and age. Her paintings too are something more than they appear to be. Their vitality and exuberant energy give the impression of spontaneity in application, but fascinating to watch was her slow, carefully applied, deliberate methodical strokes. Her compositions of dots, lines, blocks of colour had over time become a particularly minimal design with the focus turning to the rhythm, movement, and energy of mulypinyini (line) interspersed with her 'wildflower' (Japartinga – tree orchid) – a delicate small blossom which grows in the bush during dry season – which is how she described her pwanga (dots).

Solo Exhibitions

1999	Freda Warlapinni Aboriginal and Pacific Gallery, Sydney
2002	Freda Warlapinni Aboriginal & Pacific Art Sydney

Selected Exhibitions

1996	Tiwi People from Melville Island. Anima Gallery Adelaide
1996	Masterpieces from Milikapiti Savode Gallery, Brisbane.
1997	Old Patterns Framed Gallery Darwin N.T.
1997	Ochre and Ink Mossesson Gallery Perth WA



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- 1997 First Person Plural Betty Rymer Gallery, The School of Art Institute of Chicago
- 1997 Old Tiwi Alcaston House Gallery Melbourne
- 1997 Keeper of the Mimi Spirit, The October Gallery, London.
- 1997 Small Designs- Painting and Jewellery Savode Gallery Brisbane
- 1997 Dreamings Spazio Pitti Arte Florence Italy
- 1997 Kartukuni Amintiya Jurra (Ironwood and Paper) Hogarth Gallery, Paddington NSW
- 1998 The Old and the New, Gallery Gondwana Alice Springs NT
- 1998 Gli Aborigeni Australiani Una Storia Forty Thousand Ani. Castello Sforenco, Milano Sale Viscontee, Italy.
- 1998-2000 One Thousand Journeys Tin Sheds Gallery, Sydney (touring exhibition)
- 1998 NATSIAA, MAGNT Darwin
- 1998 1999, International Art Fair Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne
- 1998 Group exhibition Alcaston House Gallery Victoria
- 1998 Jilamara Mossenson Gallery, Subiaco WA
- 1998-2000 Gantner -Myer Collection, California Palace of the Legion of Honour, San Fransisco (touring)
- 1999 All About Art Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 1999 Group exhibition Chapman Gallery, Canberra
- 1999 Tiwi on Wood Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 1999 New Paintings from Milikapiti Redback Gallery, Brisbane
- 1999 Arukulunga Wunitak Thelma - Cyclone Thelma Australian Print Workshop Melbourne
- 1999 The Art of the Tiwi, Framed Gallery Darwin
- 2000 Adelaide Biennale Festival Exhibition, Gallery Australis, Adelaide
- 2000 Ngawiyati Mgapamurrumi - We Work Together, Textiles Show at Craft Victoria, Melbourne
- 2001 Jilamara, Jilamara Framed Gallery Darwin
- 2001 Spirituality and Australian Art Madrid, Spain
- 2001 18th NATSIAA MAGNT Darwin
- 2001 New Works from Jilamara Redback Gallery Brisbane
- 2001 Taykwapi Tiwi RAFT Artspace, Darwin
- 2001 The 16th Asian International Art Exhibition Guangdong Museum of Art, China
- 2001 Lines of Descent Queensland University of Technology Art Museum, Brisbane
- 2001 Island Images Australian Print Workshop Melbourne
- 2001 Ochre Short Street Gallery Broome
- 2001 Summer Collector Exhibition: New Works form Arnhem Land and The Kimberley, Alison Kelly Gallery, Melbourne
- 2002 Pwoja Jilamara Raft Artspace Darwin



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2002	19th NATSIAA, MAGNT Darwin
2002	27th Annual Shell Fremantle Print Award Fremantle Art Centre
2002	All About Art, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
2002 ? 2003	People in a Landscape, Australian Print Workshop touring exhibition, Germany, Russia, Switzerland, and Turkey.
2003	Exhibition aboard the luxury liner The World, Melbourne to Tokyo
2002	Kuturkuni Amintiya Tapulunni, RAFT Artspace, Darwin
2003	One Voice, Two Islands, Three Communities, Chapman Gallery, Canberra
2003	Big Country, Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs
2003	Let Keep Our Art Strong: Recent works from the Jilamara Artists, Raft Artspace, Darwin

Selected Bibliography

- Bennett, J. 'Ngingingawala Jilamara kapi purungupari (Our Bark Paintings),' Gallery Monthly Magazine of the National Gallery Society of Victoria, September 1992
- Bennett, J 'Narrative and decoration in Tiwi painting: Tiwi representations of the Purukuparli Story,' Art Bulletin of Victoria 33, 39-47. 1993
- The Body Tiwi Aboriginal Art from Melville and Bathurst Islands, exhib. cat., The University Gallery, University of Tasmania at Launceston 1993
- Art of the Tiwi from the Collection of the National Gallery of Victoria, catalogue, NGV Melbourne 1994
- Isaacs, J. Spirit Country Grant Hardie Books, San Francisco 1999

Collections

- National Gallery of Victoria, Victoria Australia.
- Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.
- The John McBride Collection. Melbourne and Tokyo.
- Art Gallery of NSW
- Artbank
- National Gallery of Australia
- Kerry Stokes Collection