



# Short St. Gallery



## Vicki Cullinan

**Born** 1970  
**Language Group** Yankunytjatjara, Pitjantjatjara  
**Region** APY Lands

### Biography

As a child Vicki received the skin name Yatjiki from her grandmother, the second eldest of six children she was born in Port Augusta but spent her childhood growing up surrounded by family and friends at the Indulkana community. As a young child Vicki and her large family all lived in a little tin shed, with her grandparents on her mothers' side.

"There were only a few houses in the community when I was young, there used to be four little tin sheds in a row, one of the tin sheds belonged to my family, we used to make a small fire inside and drink hot tea. Back then there was a lot of water in the rock holes and there were tjukitjis (underground springs) in the ridge and around Mt Chandler – we were always outdoors playing and swimming. I've been painting at Iwantja for many years now, my paintings show the country and tell stories that I know, I often paint the story of the Seven Sisters – it's special to me. When I'm painting, I think about how to make the painting strong, I don't worry about other things at home or outside, it's peaceful and I'm in a quiet place."

Vicki Cullinan is a Yankunytjatjara woman from Indulkana on the APY Lands of the far north desert in South Australia. Her paintings are richly dotted and are evocative of the night sky. Vicki's paintings are powerfully charged and dynamic, they truly capture what is to flourish with sovereignty in today's remote indigenous communities.

Harnessing a vibrating and explosive energy, Vicki's paintings are jewelled with repetitive layering of an explosive smattering of considered dots. Charged spaces are treated with lush colourings and heightened tones, illuminating a painterly beauty. The surface of the canvas becomes a complex landscape, lending to an overall equilibrium and poetic observations of awareness. These paintings depict the night sky as a reflection of what is living and flourishing in abundance below.



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"At night in the desert, when I look at the night sky, I feel a strong calmness. The sky is the largest presence watching my country. It watches and holds close all our stories from a long time ago. It sees all the chaos, the beauty, the hard times, and the laughter. All of this energy is tangled together in the sky and reflected back on us at night – like a mirrors reflection. I lost my young daughter a few years ago, and when I feel the sadness coming to me, I look up at the stars and know there is something good above us, that my daughter is still with me, that there is a vibrant energy keeping me and all of us strong."

## Exhibitions

2019	Wilurara Ananyi: Goin` Out West
2019	Ngunytyju munu Untalpa – Mother and Daughter, APY Gallery, Sydney v
2018	Nganana Kuranyukutu Ma-Palyani – For Our Future Generations, APY Gallery, Sydney
2018	Ngura Kunpu (Strong Country), Short St Gallery, Broome WA
2018	Kungka Kunpu (Strong Women), Koskela, Sydney NSW
2018	Parliament House, Light Up Festival, Canberra
2017	TARNANTHI, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
2017	<i>Ravenswood – Australian Women's Art Prize, Sydney, shortlisted</i>
2017	APY group show, Signal Point with Kiri Kiri Gallery, Victor Harbour, South Australia
2016	Point of Difference - from Desert to Sea, Artitja Fine Art, Perth
2016	Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
2016	Salon des Refusal, Outstation Gallery, Darwin
2016	Ngura: Country, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2015	Indigenous Literacy Exhibition, McCulloch and McCulloch, Sydney
2015	Nganampa Ngura, Nganampa Tjukurpa (Our Land, Our Stories) Artitja Fine Art, Perth
2015	TARNANTHI Art Fair, Tandanya Adelaide
2015	<i>Our Mob Art Prize, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide</i>
2015	Artitja Fine Art, Perth WA
2014	Artitja Fine Art, Perth WA
2014	Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
2014	Pukulpa Pots, Mr Kitly, Melbourne
2013	Anita Chan Lai Gallery, Hong Kong
2013	Tunbridge Gallery, Perth WA
2012	Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
2012	Mossenson Gallery, Perth
2012	Mossenson Gallery, Melbourne



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2011

Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs

## **Collections**

City of Sterling Art Collection, Perth

Parliament House Collection, Canberra

Janet Holmes à Court Collection, Perth