



Short St. Gallery



Betty Muffler

Born	1944
Language Group	Pitjantjatjara
Region	APY Lands

Betty Muffler, born in country near Watarru near the border of South and Western Australia, lives and works in Indulkana, SA. Betty Muffler works at Iwantja Arts, in Indulkana Community on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in remote north-west SA.

Betty Muffler is a renowned ngangkari (traditional healer) and senior cultural woman. Betty's artistic practice spans painting and tjampi (native grass) weaving. A child survivor of the Maralinga bombings, in which she lost her entire family, Betty was rescued by missionaries and raised at the Ernabella mission. Betty learnt her Ngangkari practise from her aunties, handed down through her father's side.

Alongside a rigorous art practice Betty continues to work extensively with NPY Women's Council and medical practitioners to support Anangu to good health and through times of crisis.

"This is my country, this is ngangkari country –it's healing, it's good. I've travelled everywhere on the APY Lands, sometimes during Marali (spiritual ngangkari travelling) and sometimes just to visit friends. I'm a strong kungka (woman) I survived the bombings at Maralinga, but many of my family didn't. It's a terrible and sad story. We need to heal this country, and give more respect to the land. My painting shows many of the good places in my country."

"I am a Ngangkari, I've got an eagles spirit so I can stay at home here and in my sleep I send my eagle spirit across the desert to look for sick people, then I land next to them and make them better. Ngangkari's can see right through people to what sickness is inside, then they can heal them straight away."

Betty Muffler won the 2017 NATSIAA Award for emerging art, her paintings have been exhibited extensively, and her work is held in significant collections throughout Australia and internationally.



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Group Exhibitions

- 2019 Tjilpi + Pampa – Senior Iwantja Artists, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
2018 John Fries Award, UNSW Galleries, Sydney
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 Telstra NATSIA Awards, finalist, MAGNT, Darwin
2018 Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
2018 Artists of the APY Art Centre Collective, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
2017 TARNANTHI, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
2017 Telstra NATSIA Awards, finalist, MAGNT, Darwin
2017 Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
2017 Walma – Moon Rise, Koskela Art Gallery, Sydney
2017 Iwantja Arts Exhibition, Short St Gallery, Broome
2017 Time and Tide, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
2017 Artists of the APY Lands, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
2016 APY kakarara nguru : kuwaritja – APY East : new wave, Outstation Gallery, Darwin
2016 APY Exhibition, Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Queensland
2015 APY Exhibition, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs
2015 Nganampa Ngura, Ngananmpa Tjukurpa, Artitja Fine Art, Perth
2015 Ngura Wangkanyi (Talking about Country), Printmaker Gallery, Melbourne
2014 indigenous Literacy Exhibition, McCulloch and McCulloch, Sydney
2014 Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
2014 Ngintaka Country, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

Collections

Artbank
Australian War Memorial
Foundation Opale

Prizes

2017 *Winner*, NATSIAA Emerging Artist Award, MAGNT, Darwin