Lydia Balbal

**Birth Year**  
c.1958

**Birth Place**  
Martakulu

**Language Group**  
Mangala

**Region**  
Broome Kimberley

**Biography**

Lydia Balbal is a Mangala woman. She was married to the Yulparija artist Nabiru Bullen until his death in 2009. Lydia’s country is near Punmu in the Great Sandy Desert of W.A. Her people’s existence was threatened by severe drought so that they had little choice but to leave their traditional country. Her family were some of the last to walk out to the coastal town of Bigyadanga (then La Grange Mission) located two hours south of Broome in the early 70s. Lydia first began painting in 2007 but has already received significant attention from collectors and the media alike.

**Solo Exhibitions**

2017  
Lydia Balbal - Underground, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA

2017  
Mangala Woman: Lydia Balbal, AirSpace Gallery, Sydney, NSW

2013  
Pikarong: King Brown Country, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, Vic

2012  
Lydia Balbal/Strong Woman Country, IDAIA - International Development of Australian Indigenous Art, Paris

2010  
Piti, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, N.T.

2009  
Lydia Balbal Solo, Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney NSW

2008  
Salt Lake Country, Short Street Gallery, Broome W.A.

2008  
Lydia Balbal, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne Victoria

**Group Exhibitions**

2019  
From the Desert to the Sea: a Journey with the Yulparija, Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels
Short St. Gallery

2018  Le Pley Collection, Residence of the Australian Ambassador, Beijing, China
2017  Hedland Art Award, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, WA
2017  Songs of a Secret Country, Kluge-Ruhe Art Gallery, University of Virginia, United States of America
2017  Desert Colour 2017, Talapi, Alice Springs, NT
2017  Electric, Harvey Arts Projects, USA
2016  Parcours des Mondes, Estragin Fine Art, Paris, France
2015  OFF COURSE Art Fair, Brussels, Belgium
2014  Saltwater Soul Desert Heart, Short St Gallery Broome, WA
2014  Country to Coast; Colours of the Kimberley, Aboriginal Art Museum - Utrecht, curated by Georges Petitjean
2013  Women's Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Victoria
2012  West of Well 33: Yaama Ganu Gallery, Sydney
2012  Luminous, World Contemporary Art from the West Farmers Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA
2012  WaterMark, the Signature of Life, IDAIA- International Development of Australian Indigenous Art, The Space, Hong Kong
2012  Luminescences: The Colour of Bidyadanga, Harvey Arts Projects, Idaho, USA
2012  29th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory
2012  Jan Billycan; Lydia Balbal, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2012  Un-acclimatised, Monash University Museum of Art at Switchback Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2012  Round and Round in that Rockhole, Short St Gallery, Broome, W.A.
2011  Aboriginal Art, ININTI in collaboration with IDAIA, International Development for Australian Indigenous Art, Madrid, Spain
2011  Australian Aboriginal Art: Painting from the Deserts, ININTI in collaboration with IDAIA, Madrid, Spain
2011  Shalom Gamarada Nguiyani Yana Art Fair 2011, Sydney, NSW
2011  Hedland Art Awards, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, WA
2011  Summer Haze, JGM Galleries, London, UK
2011  Pearls, Paint; Ilma, Aratong Galleries, Australian High Commission, Singapore
2011  Remix, WA Contemporary Art, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, WA
2011  Kirriwiri, Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2011  Green, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
2011  Bidyadanga Recent Paintings, Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT
2010  Bidyadanga Artists, Harvey Arts Projects, SunValley, Idaho, USA
Short St. Gallery

2010  Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building - Short St Gallery / William Mora Galleries present the Yulparija artists
2010  27th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Art Award, Musuem and Art Gallery of Northern Territory
2010  Royal Scottish Bank Emerging Art Award, Selected Finalist, Sydney NSW
2010  White, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2009  Short on Size, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2009  26th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, MAGNT, Darwin
2008  Bidyadanga Art Show, AP Bond Art, Adelaide, S.A.
2008  From Desert to Saltwater, Booker-Lowe Gallery, Houston Texas, USA
2008  25th Telstra National Aboriginal & AMP; Torres Strait Island Art Award, Musuem and Art Gallery of Northern Territory

Collections

Murdoch University Art Collection
Aboriginal Art Museum, The Netherlands
Thomas Vroom Collection, The Netherlands
National Gallery of Victoria
Felton Collection
Queensland Art Gallery
Laverty Collection
Artbank
Monash University Art Collection
Lepley Collection
Western Australian Art Gallery
National Gallery of Australia
Wesfarmers Collection
Australia Parliament House Collection
Brocard - Estrangin Collection
Kluger-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia

Bibliography

Dreamings: Arte Aborigena Australiana incontra de Chirico (Aboriginal Australian art meets De Chirico), Museo Carlo Bilotti, Catalogue 2014,
Art Monthly, Laverty 2: A Brave New aesthetic world, Jeremy Eccles, September 2011
Beyond Sacred, Australian Aboriginal Art, Colin & Elizabeth Laverty, 2011
Art Monthly, Green at Darwin Outstation, Skye Raab, May 1 2011
Nicolas Rothwell, Journeys to the Interior Black Inc, Australia, 2010
Short St. Gallery

The Australian Newspaper, Revelatory Show of Strength in Tradition, Nicholas Rothwell, August 16, 2010
The Australian Newspaper, Turning Landscape on its Head, Nicholas Rothwell, December 8 2008
The Australian Newspaper, In the Shadow of Modernity, Nicholas Rothwell, December 13, 2008
The Age Newspaper, Dreamtime Designers, Bruce Elder, March 15 2008