



Short St. Gallery

Maggie Nakamarra Corby



Birth Year	1951
Language Group	Pintupi & Warlpiri
Region	Alice Springs

Biography

Maggie Kumanti Nakamarra (born 1951) and her sister, Narlie (born 1948) were born at Ikuntji [Haasts Bluff], the eldest daughters of renowned Papunya Tula artist Johnny Warangkula Tjupurrula and his first wife Merewenjina Napanangka. After Merewenjina's death, Johnny married Gladys (Yawintji) Napanangka and Narlie and Maggie grew up with their six half-siblings, the Nelsons: Michael, Dennis, Emma, Candy, Minnie, and another who passed away. They all eventually moved to Papunya. Warangkula Tjupurrula's country was Mingilpiri, Kalipimpinpa, Ilpili and Tjikari. He held the Manngiri Tjukurpa - Lightning Men throw jagged lightning that strikes trees, burning them. Maggie's father was a senior Law man, Rainmaker, and Custodian of the Water Dreaming and important site of Kalipinya, where Wimpa the Lightning Boss sang up a huge storm and created a series of waterholes, which now mark his songline. Maggie's father was well known for his paintings of the Storm Dreaming at Kalipinya, producing many variations of Kalipinya in 1971–1972, the time of an unusual season of flooding rains and its ensuing regeneration of plant life in the Papunya area. This season of abundance caused the song cycles of the Water Dreaming performed in ritual to resonate in the imagination of many Papunya artists. Maggie and her sister Narlie Nelson carry the Lightning Women Tjukurpa in which they cause sheet lightning that lights up behind the clouds. They learnt the stories of Kalipinya which they mostly paint from their father, although they each represent this famous subject in their own way. Maggie Nakamarra married David Corby Tjapaltjarri from the Granites west of Yuendumu, one of the youngest of the founding group of painters at Papunya. David Corby belonged to the Ngaliya and Warlpiri people and lived from 1940 to 1980. His brother was Charlie Egalie Tjapaltjarri. He and his brother have a monumental story of their father's dreaming east of Yuendumu. David was adopted by the



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Karrinyarra family after the Coniston massacre. David Big Kupirana Corby worked as a stockman before joining the early group of artists at Papunya. One of the youngest of the group, he was influenced in his work by his father-in-law. He travelled with exhibitions to New Zealand and Nigeria, and was artist-in-residence at Flinders University in South Australia in 1979. He drowned in a flooded creek on his way back to Papunya shortly after being elected chairman of Papunya Tula Artists in 1980. David was Johnny Warrangkula's son in law, and Warrangkula's influence was strong on both David Corby's work and that of his brother. Maggie and David had five children including Watson Corby Tjungurrayi also an artist. Maggie and her family were part of the five Toyotas that travelled back out to Kiwirrkurra in 1981. They had nothing for many years, but they again lived on their Country. After shifting between Mt Liebig, Papunya, Kintore and Kiwirrkurra, Maggie has moved to Alice Springs in her senior years, to receive ongoing support. Maggie paints at Tangentyere Artists daily.

Exhibitions

2020 Short St Gallery, Broome WA Station Days, Ration Days, Town Camp Now
2019 Araluen Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob
2019 Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT Arrentye Mamu - Monster Monster, New Works by Tangentyere Artists and Yarrenyty Arterre Artists
2018 Hidden Valley, Yarrenyty Arterre, and Tangentyere Artists, Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Christmas Show
2018 Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide SA Tarnanthi Art Fair
Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT Tjina Mob
2018 Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs Desert Mob
2018 Satellite Exhibition curated by Terazita Turner-Young, Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT A Dream of Home
2017 Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Christmas Exhibition
2017 Tandanya Cultural Centre Adelaide SA Tarnanthi Festival Art Fair
2017 Darwin Convention Centre Darwin NT Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
2017 Merricks General Wine Store Together Our Stories Are Stronger
2016 Aboriginal Art Marketplace, Yulara Tjungu Festival
2014 Bright Gallery Bright VIC Time and Place 2
2013 Central Craft Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists

Collections

Australia Museum Australia, Canberra, ACT