

Short St. Gallery



Nellie Coulthard

Born 1947
Language Group Yankunytjatjara
Region APY Lands

Biography

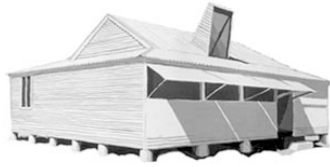
Nellie Coulthard was born in desert bush land near Oodnadatta, on the remote property of the Wintinna Homestead Cattle Station. Her father worked as a shepherd for a local station, Nellie and her family traveled constantly and slept outdoors supporting her father and caring for the sheep. Nellie has two brothers and two sisters, and has lived at the Indulkana community since she was a young lady.

As there was no established housing for Indigenous people in the 1950's, Nellie and her family lived in a hand built wiltja made from found materials such as sheets of tin and dried logs and branches, close to the stationmasters home. Nellie's great niece Vicki Cullinan translates for her stating;

"When I was born, the stationmasters wife had a little girl on the same day! When we were little my family had no house and no car, we were always walking wherever we had to go. There was no school, so I learnt things from my parents and the country. When I was older I saw camels for the first time but I didn't know what they were, and my father took us for a ride on them."

When she was still quite young, Nellie took on a job at the Granite Downes Cattle Station in the stationmasters home. She worked with the stationmaster's wife and other Anangu ladies washing dishes and cleaning the house in exchange for rations and tobacco for her father. Nellie married a young stockman who was also working at the Granite Downes Cattle Station, and together they came to Indulkana with their two young children.

Nellie and her young family lived among friends and extended family at the Indulkana community, they lived in a little tin shed close to her niece Emily Cullinan and her children. Nellie took a job at the newly established pre-school and worked with young children for most of her career. After the early, sudden death of one of her own children, Nellie adopted a



Short St. Gallery

daughter; she is now a proud great grandma of three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

"I was a teacher at the preschool, I loved working with the chi chi's (children) I worked with Daisy Whiskey and Rene Sundown, now all those chi chi's have grown up, they have their own children. I grew up in Indulkana too, I know everybody here, and it's my home."

Nellie is a *minyma pampa* (respected senior woman) amongst both adults and children at Indulkana; many children regularly visit her while she paints at the art centre on their school lunch breaks. Ever since her early days of working at the Indulkana preschool and then as a teacher at the newly established family centre, Nellie has always had a compassion for ongoing improvements in children's education and opportunities available to them.

Nellie has been making paintings at the Iwantja Art Centre for many years. Her work often speaks to memories and stories of the country she recalls as a young girl, they reference her childhood experiences of living in the country. An accomplished textile maker, Nellie's structural pieces are created with extreme skill and finesse, she enjoys making unique baskets and abstract forms with tjanpi grasses and coloured wools.

As a talented singer and one of the founding members of the Indulkana church choir, Nellie is constantly involved in outreach and community development programs. Nellie participates in leading the Indulkana church choir each Sunday. While painting at the art centre, Nellie likes to listen to gospel recordings sung in language from other communities across the APY Lands.

Exhibitions

- 2019 Wilurara Ananyi : Goin' Out West, Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2019 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2019 Tjilpi + Pampa – Senior Iwantja Artists, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2018 Nganana Kuranyukutu Ma-Palyani – For Our Future Generations, APY Gallery, Sydney
- 2018 Finalist, Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
- 2018 Art of the APY Art Centre Collective, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2018 Kungka Kunpu (Strong Women), Koskela, Sydney
- 2018 Ngura Kunpu (Strong Country), Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2018 Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
- 2018 Rising Stars, outstation Gallery, Darwin
- 2017 Salon des Refusés, Charles Darwin University, Darwin
- 2017 Many Hands - Paintings from Iwantja, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2017 Artists of the APY Lands, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC



Short St. Gallery

2016	Our Mob, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, SA
2016	APY Exhibition, Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Queensland
2016	Ngura: Country, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2016	Iwantja Artists, Harvey Art Projects, Idaho USA
2016	SALT, McCulloch and McCulloch, Melbourne
2015	Iwantja Arts, Mr Kitty, Melbourne
2015	SALT, McCulloch and McCulloch, Melbourne
2015	Indigenous Literacy Exhibition, McCulloch and McCulloch, Sydney
2015	Nganampa Ngura, Ngananmpa Tjukurpa (Our Land, Our Stories) Artitja Fine Art, Perth
2015	TARNANTHI Art Fair, Tandanya, Adelaide
2015	Our Mob, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide
2015	Desert Colour, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs
2015	Spring Salon, McCulloch and McCulloch, Shoreham
2015	Artitja Fine Arts, Fremantle Western Australia
2015	In the Wild, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs
2014	Indigenous Literacy Exhibition, McCulloch and McCulloch, Sydney
2014	Artitja Fine Art, Western Australia
2014	Japingka Gallery, Perth Western Australia
2014	Tjungu Festival, Yulara, Uluru
2014	Autumn Salon, McCulloch and McCulloch, Shoreham VIC
2014	Right Now with Viscopy, Boomalli, Sydney
2014	Pukulpa Pots, Mr Kitty, Brunswick, VIC
2014	Celebrating Ten, Artitja Fine Art, Fremantle WA
2014	Ngali – Kitikiti – ni, Pop Up Gallery, The Rocks Sydney
2013	Better World Arts, Adelaide
2013	Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
2012	Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs 2011 Mossenson Gallery, Perth

Collections

Queensland Art Gallery – Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) Brisbane