



Short St. Gallery



MABEL KING

Born: 1930
Died: 2006
Birth Place: Gularungnardi
Language Group: Ngarinyin
Region: Kimberley / Mowanjum

Biography

A respected Ngarinyin elder and important person in Mowanjum's cultural affairs, Mabel is another of the Mowanjum people who trekked from her Gurima country near Chamley River to Munja, Kunmunya, Wotjulum, old Mowanjum and present day Mowanjum. She has secret women's powers and is a keeper of traditional Ngarinyin song and dance. Mabel is responsible for teaching the women and young boys and girls the proper way to dance Wangga (children's corroboree).

With her keen wit, boundless enthusiasm, and knowledge of hundreds of Ngarinyin stories, Mabel brings a wonderful energy into the Mowanjum art studio. She paints prolifically and passionately, with a child's joy. "I paint my own Wandjina stories for me", says Mabel. "Painting has become my life".

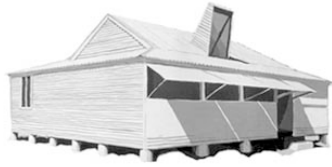
Collectors are drawn to her naive style. In 1999, the prestigious National Gallery of Victoria purchased four of her pieces.

Solo Exhibitions

2013 The wonder of Western Australia's Wandjina, IDAIA Paris, France.
2012 Japingka Aboriginal Art Mabel King – Paintings from the Estate
2012 King- Wandjina , Tali Gallery, Sydney NSW

Group Exhibitions

1999 Mowanjum, Telstra Building, Melbourne, VIC
1999 The Power of the Wandjina, Grosvenor Place, Sydney, NSW



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Collections

National Gallery of Victoria
King & Queen of Sweden
Crawford Collection Art Gallery of Western Australia

Bibliography:

How art gave back a community its pride, *The Age*, 16 June 1999
Artist captured power of cave paintings, *The West Australian*, April 18 2006
Artworks on display, *The West Australian*, 25 October, 2018