



Short St. Gallery

Bai Bai Napangarti

Birth Year c 1939 - 2020
Language Group Kukatja
Region Balgo, WA
Biography

Bai Bai is the senior Law woman of Balgo. Her country extends from Mangkayi in the Stansmore Ranges to just south of Yagga Yagga. Bai Bai has travelled extensively for cultural reasons, including dancing at the Shinju Matsuri Festival in Perth in 1989 and touring to demonstrate traditional sand drawing in 2005. She spent her youth and early adult years living and moving through her family's land learning traditional law and culture.

Bai Bai began to paint in 1986 in Balgo, and since then has introduced younger members of her family to painting. She has been involved in several publications including Yartji: Six women's stories from the Great Sandy Desert, 1997, Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra, which was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's History Awards in 1998. Bai Bai is a long serving member of the Kimberley Land Council and a strong practitioner of women's Law and culture in Balgo. Bai Bai was married to artist Sunfly Tjampitjin (now deceased).

Exhibitions

2020 Matriarchs - Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin
2019 Wirrimanu Balgo Artists - Japingka Aboriginal Art, Fremantle
2018 WAu! Focus in Western Australia - Rovaniemi Museum, Finland
2017 TARNANTHI FESTIVAL - Art Gallery of SA, Adelaide
2017 FINALISTS. 1997 – 2017 - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
2017 Farben der Wüste - ARTKELCH @ Teppichhaus Jordan, Waldshut-Tiengen, Germany
2015 Warlayirti Artists - Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin
2014 Warlayirti Artists - Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin
2014 Balgo: Past & Present - Coeee Gallery, Sydney
2014 Yaninpala Yirwarrawanna Kutjupa Ngurrarakutu – Walking the Path - Nomad Art, Darwin
2013 Desert Mob Exhibition - Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs, NT
2013 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair - Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin
2013 In Print 20/20, Celebrating 20 years of prints & printmaking - Charles Darwin University Art Collection & Northern Editions Printmaking Studio
2013 Convergence, Warlayirti Artists - Short St Gallery, Broome
2013 Kuralka Tjanu Tjukurpa: Kuwarri Marr Ku (Old Stories: New Creations), Northern Editions - Nan Giese Gallery, Charles Darwin University, Darwin Festival Exhibitions, Darwin
2013 Nora Wompi & Friends - Suzanne O'Connell, Brisbane
2013 Seoul Open Arts Fair - Korea



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2012 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre
2012 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair - Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin 2012
2012 Watermark - the Signature of Life - , IDAIA, Hong Kong
2012 Gestuelles – The Art of Transmission by Aboriginal Desert Women, IDAIA – International Development for Australian Indigenous Art, - Alliances Francaises in Australia.
2012 PRO COMMUNITY – Warlayirti Artists - touring exhibition ARTKELCH @ ARTKELCH, Freiburg, @ Grassi Museum, Leipzig, @ Fabrik der Künste, Hamburg, @ kptec, Schorndorf, @ Galerie Gunzoburg, Überlingen, Germany
2012 Luminous World: Contemporary Art from the Wesfarmers Collection, touring exhibition - Western Australia Art Gallery
2012 Warlayirti Artists, Artkelch Pro Community, Freiburg, Grassi Museum Leipzig, Fabrik Der Kunste, Hamburg and Galerie Gunzoburg Bodensee (Lake Constance) - Germany
2011 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre
2011 Balgo – 2011, - Redot Gallery, Singapore
2011 Balgo 2011, - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
2010 Mixed exhibition - Palya Art, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth
2010 'Ingallimpa Tjuntu' – Singing Songs, "We sing the country and that's how we find the way" - In conjunction with Redot Gallery @ Audi Forum Tokyo
2010 Balgo Prints - Northern Editions, Darwin
2010 Colours – from the desert to the factory - ARTKELCH Collectors Lounge @ kptec, Schorndorf, Germany
2009 Aboriginal Art - Window to Culture - ARTKELCH @ Australian Embassy, NAIDOC Week, Berlin, Germany
2009 All about Country - . Aboriginal Art aus der Central und Western Desert, ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
2008 Balgo Survey - Balgo Survey, Redot Gallery, Singapore
2008 Mixed exhibition, Palya Art , - Melbourne, Sydney, Perth
2008 Balgo 2008 - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
2007 Warlayirti Survey - Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs
2007 Warlayirti Survey - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
2007 Women With Sticks - Susanne O'Connell Gallery, Brisbane
2007 Mixed exhibition, Palya Art - , Melbourne, Sydney, Perth
2007 New Balgo Prints & Glass - , Northern Editions, Darwin
2007 Warlayirti Survey, They Might Be Giants - Alcaston Woolloongabba Art Gallery, and Brisbane
2007 Warlayirti Survey - Aboriginal Art and Pacific Art, Sydney
2006 Recent Works - Raft Art Space, Darwin
2006 Recent Works - Short Street Gallery, Broome
2006 Desert Mob - Araluen Centre for Arts, Alice Springs
2006 Survey - Gallery Godwana
2005 Glass from the Sand Country - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
2004 Balgo 4-04 - Warlayirti Artists, Balgo



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2004 Recent Works - Short Street Gallery, Broome
2004 Desert Mob - Araluen Centre for Arts, Alice Springs
2004 Balgo Prints - Northern Editions, Darwin
2003 Desert Mob - Araluen Centre for Arts, Alice Springs
2003 Purtatjanirri Kamu Warmala - Framed Gallery, Darwin
2003 Eight by Three - Scott Livesey Art Dealer, Melbourne
2002 Balgo Hills Artists 2002 - Art Mob Aboriginal Fine Art, Hobart
2002 Balgo - Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth
2002 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
2002 Big Colour My Country - Thornquest Gallery, Gold Coast
2002 Art From Balgo - Gallery Godwana, Alice Springs
2001 Opening Exhibition - Thornquest Gallery, Gold Coast
2001 Recent Works by Artists from Balgo Hills - Ochre Gallery, Collingwood, Victoria
2001 Kutjungka - Bett Gallery, Homeland
2000 Balgo Hills Aboriginal Paintings - Bett Gallery, Hobart
2000 Waltja – Family - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
1997 Daughters of the Dreaming: Sisters Together Strong - Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
1997 New Paintings by Balgo Women - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
1996 Balgo Hills: Art of the Place - Derek Simpkins Gallery of Tribal Art, Vancouver, BC, Canada
1995 Two Men Dreaming: New Art from Balgo Hills - Coe-ee Aboriginal Art Gallery, Paddington
1995 On the Trail of the Kingfisher: Aboriginal Art from Balgo Hills - Coe-ee Aboriginal Art Gallery, Paddington
1994 Aboriginal Desert Women's Law - Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Ballarat
2000 Past, Present and Future - Gallery East, Sydney
2000 The Westside: Images in Ochre and Colour - Coe-ee II Exhibiting Gallery, Yuwayi Art Precinct, World Square, Sydney
2000 Olympic Exhibition, - Coe-ee Exhibiting Gallery, Yuwayi Art Precinct, World Square, Sydney
1999 Miliynyin - Japingka Gallery, Fremantle
1998 Painting Country - Pearlers Row Gallery, Broome
17th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
15th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
1993 Images of Power: Aboriginal Art of the Kimberley - National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
1991 Aboriginal Art and Spirituality - High Court, Canberra
1991 Yapa Peintres Aborigenes de Balgo et Lajamanu - Baudon Lebon Gallery, Paris, France
1990 Recent Balgo Paintings - Dreamtime Gallery, Perth
1989 Recent Paintings From Balgo - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne



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1989 Balgo Paintings - Robert Steele Gallery, Perth
1988 Art From Balgo Hills - Birukmarri Gallery, Fremantle
1986 Art From The Great Sandy Desert - Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth

Collections

Art Gallery of WA
Berndt Museum, UWA
Helen Read Collection
Kelton Collection
Ken Thompson & Pierre Marecaux Collection
Kluge-Ruhe Collection
Lavery Collection
Morven Estate Collection
Museum and Art Gallery of the NT
National Gallery of Victoria
The Holmes a Court Collection

Bibliography

2015 Handsigns – short film produced by PAKAM and Kapululungu Women's Law & Culture Centre
2015 Tjawa Tjawa – with Mark Moora - produced by PAKAM and Kapululungu Women's Law & Culture Centre
2013 Kururralkatjanu – The Last Generation – a film of Bai Bai's country & songline
1997 Yartji: Six women's stories from the Great Sandy Desert (Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra)
1994 Dream Journeys Calendar, image reproduction
1991 Craftsman House, East Roseville, NSW
1991 Glowczewski, B., Yapa Peintres Aborigenes de Balgo et Lajamanu, Lebon Gallery, Paris, France
1991 Crumlin, R., (ed.), Aboriginal Art and Spirituality, Collins Dove, North Blackburn, Vic
1991 Stanton, J., Painting the Country: Contemporary Aboriginal Art from the Kimberley Region, WA, University of Western Australia Press, Perth