



Short St. Gallery



Rene Nelson

Born	c.1950
Language	Pitjantjatjara
Region	Irrunytju

Biography

Rene was born at Warlu, a rock hole west of Irrunytju, near Papulankutja (Blackstone). As a young child Rene lived a semi nomadic lifestyle in the desert. "When I was little I walked in the bush with my mother and father from rock hole to rock hole. If a little rock hole got dry we would travel to one of the main rock holes which always had water ."

Rene walked with her family to Warburton Mission and then on to Areyonga mission in the Northern Territory where she went to school. Years later the family walked to Papulankutja in Western Australia and then on to Irrunytju community where Rene married and raised her five children and five grandchildren.

A founding member of Irrunytju Arts, Nelson's paintings continue to draw on her knowledge of Country and the important rock holes around her place of birth. Her work is characterised by layers of vibrant colours, intensified by precise dotting. Nelson is a skilled bush woman and incorporates her love of traditional craft skills including punu (wood) carving, tjanpi (grass) weaving and bead work into a contemporary art practice.

Group Exhibitions

2023 September Desert Mob Exhibition Araluen Arts Centre. Alice Springs. Northern Territory. Australia



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2021 November IOTA21 (Indian Ocean Craft Triennial) Artitja Fine Art Gallery Fremantle.
Western Australia

2021 October Tamaranthi 2021 Indigenous Arts Festival AGSA (Art Gallery of South Australia).

2021 September Desert Mob Exhibition Araluen Arts Centre. Alice Springs. Northern Territory.
Australia

2021 March Revealed Exhibition Fremantle Arts Centre. Perth Western Australia.

2019 September Desert Mob Exhibition Araluen Arts Centre. Alice Springs. Northern Territory.
Australia

Commissions

2021 Songlines Tracking the Seven Sisters- Traveling exhibition. Tjanpi (grass) woven Piti (large bowl) and punu (wood) carved Wana (digging stick).