



Short St. Gallery

Rene Nelson

Born 1945
Language Pitjantjatjara
Region Central/Western Desert



Rene was born at a site called Parunpii in the 1940s. She first started making baskets late in 1997 and continues to produce many of the mini baskets which have become popular of recent. She is also an accomplished painter. Tjanpi (meaning 'dry grass') evolved from a series of basket weaving workshops held on remote communities in the Western Desert by the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunyatjara Women's Council in 1995. Building on traditions of using fibre for medicinal, ceremonial and daily purposes, women took easily to making coiled baskets. These new-found skills were shared with relations on neighbouring communities and weaving quickly spread. Today over 400 women across 28 communities are making baskets and sculptures out of grass and working with fibre in this way is firmly embedded in Western and Central desert culture. While out collecting desert grasses for their fibre art, women visit sacred sites and traditional homelands, hunt and gather food for their families and teach their children about country.

Group Exhibitions

2012	November - Way Out West: New Works from the Western Desert Mob, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs
2011	January - Nganana Pukultu Basket Wirura Palyapai (We Love Making Beautiful Baskets), The Jam Factory, Adelaide
2003	January - Manguri Goes Home, Tyulyuru Cultural Centre Warburton
2003	January - Tjanpi at the Kluge Ruhe, University of Virginia, USA
2001	January - Manguri Weaving Visions Touring Exhibition