



Short St. Gallery

Tamika Jackson

Born c. 1989
Region Mantamaru (Jameson), WA



Biography

Tamika was born in Kalgoorlie and now lives in Jameson. She is a young woman who is new to making Tjanpi in 2019. She attended a Tjanpi skills development workshop in Jameson, where she made her first artwork, a camel. Tamika says that Tjanpi is fun to learn and she hopes to come to more workshops in the future.

Tjanpi (meaning 'dry grass') evolved from a series of basket weaving workshops held on remote communities in the Western Desert by the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara 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.

Tjanpi Desert Weavers (Tjanpi meaning 'wild grass') is an award-winning, Indigenous governed and directed social enterprise of the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (NPYWC). Tjanpi empowers over 400 women across a 350 000 square km area of the tri-state region of NT, SA and WA to earn an income and remain in their communities on Country.