

Umatji (Tanya) Tjapalyi

Born1974LanguageYankunytjatjaraRegionAPY Lands

Umatji is a Yankunytjatjara woman born in Indulkana Community on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in the far northwest of South Australia.

Umatji's mother, Kunmanara (Kathleen Injiki) Tjapalyi was one of the founders and senior artists at Mimili Maku Arts. Growing up, Umatji learned from her mother and father about their country and their storylines. Today, Umatji paints her mother's country around Iltur, which forms part of the Antara storyline, and is celebrated in Women's Ceremony.

Whilst Umatji only commenced painting in 2021, she has already been recognised as one of the most talented emerging painters at Mimili Maku Arts and was a finalist in the Hadley's Art Prize for landscape painting in 2022.

Group Exhibitions

- 2024 Women's Story Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2023 Unfolding, Short St Gallery, Broome
- 2023 Tjungu, APY Gallery, Sydney
- 2023 Minyma Kunpu (Strong Women) Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2023 itjanu flourishing, Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery Brussels, Belgium
- 2023 Rising Stars, Outstation Gallery, Darwin
- 2022 minyma maku, Everywhen, Mornington Peninsula
- 2022 pakalarani taking flight, Short St Gallery, Broome
- 2022 APY Art Centre Collective at Melbourne Art Fair, Melbourne Exhibition Centre
- 2021 inuntji fresh bloom, APY Gallery, Sydney

Collections

Deakin University Collection Fondation Opale (Switzerland) Kaplan Levi Collection, Seattle

Prizes & Awards

- 2024 Finalist, Bayside Painting Prize, Bayside Gallery
- 2023 Finalist, Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery



- 2023 Finalist, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, MAGNT, Darwin
- 2022 Finalist, Hadley's Art Prize, Hadley's Orient Hotel, Hobart, Tasmania