

Short St. Gallery



Myra Kumantjara

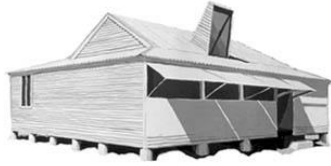
Born 1981
Language Pitjantjatjara / Yankunytjatjara
Region APY Lands

Biography

Myra Kumantjara paints variations on the enduring theme of her grandmother's Country—Kalpi, near Mimili in the APY Lands. Her work is rooted in the transmission of secret women's knowledge and cultural ceremonies associated with waterholes. These sites, where water gathers in rocky basins after rain, are vital sources of sustenance during the arid dry season. Their significance is passed down through generations in the form of story and song. While grounded in this cultural framework, Myra's practice is marked by improvisation. Each work reimagines form and colour as abstract languages—ways of evoking the deep spiritual meaning of place while carefully withholding sacred knowledge from the gaze of the uninitiated. In this way, her paintings operate as both expression and protection: they are acts of cultural endurance, interpretation, and care.

Group Exhibitions

- 2025 Yaama Ganu Moree New Beginnings
- 2025 APY Gallery Adelaide Generation Next (for Tarnanthi)
- 2024 APY Gallery Adelaide Generation Flex: SALA Exhibition
- 2024 Umoona Exhibition, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2024 APY Gallery Adelaide, Bright Shiny Things – New Works from Coober Pedy



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2022 Carriageworks Sydney Contemporary
2022 APY Gallery Adelaide, Adelaide Opal Country
2021 APY Gallery Adelaide, Adelaide Umoona - Art From Umoona and Coober
Pedy

Awards

2024 Finalist Malka Aboriginal Art Prize
2022 Wynne Prize Finalist – Collaborative work with Jeannie Minunga and Kay Finn