



# Short St. Gallery



## Janet Forbes

Born	1962
Language	Ngaanyatjarra
Region	Alice Springs

Janet was born a bush baby in the Warburton area. Her father, Nyunma came from Tawulbalyana and was a famous traditional owner for the region around Papulankutja. Her mother, Yuminiya was from Waltjatjarra country on the other side (south) of the Blackstone Ranges.

After attending school at the Warburton mission (1974/75) Janet moved to Norseman to attend high school where she met and married Craig Morrison. They have three children. The Forbes family decided to return to their country in the 1980's settling in the new Papulankutja (Blackstone) which was founded by her father Fred Forbes. She had three siblings, only her sister Delma and herself remain.

Janet was a co-founder of the original Papulankutja Women's Centre and recalls going to a meeting at Hamilton Downs in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands to talk to government about money for the centre. In the early days she made batik cloth, just like the women at centres in the APY Lands where it had started.

Janet learnt to make baskets from her older sister, Ruby Reid and was taught how to make punu (wooden artifacts) by her mother. Janet also makes sculptural forms from tjanpi (grass) with Tjanpi Desert Weavers.

Janet started painting in 2003 at the newly established Papulankutja Artists originally based at the Women's Centre. Her paintings often depict the nganur (Bush Turkey) story, the Papulankutja story of the two goanna men or the Kungkarrangkalpa (Seven Sisters).



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She still lives in Blackstone with her husband Craig and surrounded by family. She comes in to her art centre regularly to paint her beautiful way, making all the other artists laugh by sharing stories as she works.

## Group Exhibitions

- 2020 Desert Mob: Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2016 Desert Mob: Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2016 Pro Community - Ngaanyatjarra Lands: Touring exhibition, ARTKELCH, Germany - ARTKELCH, Freiburg; Museum Fünf Kontinente, München; ARTKELCH, Collectors Lounge Schorndorf, Germany
- 2015 Tarnanthi Textiles Adelaide SA - Fabric Exhibition as part of the Festival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Art
- 2015 Hedland Art Award: Port Hedland, WA –
- 2015 General Exhibition: Tunbridge Gallery, Perth -
- 2014 Palya-Papulankutja Artists Group show: Art Mob, Hobart Tasmania -
- 2013 Papulankutja Artists Exhibition Purple Noon Gallery Sydney -
- 2013 Marks in the Sand: Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide, South Australia - An exhibition of prints and canvases showing how the stories start from those those Marks in the Sand
- 2013 Art from the Heart: Purple Noon Gallery, Sydney, NSW –
- 2013 Revealed Emerging Artists: Central Gallery, Perth, WA –
- 2012 Desert Mob: Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT -
- 2012 Desert Mob: Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT –
- 2012 Desert Mob: Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT –
- 2012 Aritja Gallery Fremantle Colours Group Show -
- 2012 Art Mob Hobart Family Paintings -
- 2011 Desert Mob: Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT –
- 2011 Papulankutja Group Show: Chapman Gallery, Canberra -
- 2010 Desert Mob: Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT -
- 2010 Papulankutja Artists Group Show; William Mora Galleries, Melbourne –
- 2010 Papulankutja Artists Group Show: Birrung Gallery, Sydney –
- 2010 Paint right way - Papulankutja Artists: Chapman Gallery, Canberra –
- 2010 Papulankutja Artists Group Show: Woolsongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane –
- 2010 Papulankutja Artists Group Show: Tunbridge Art Gallery, Margaret River -
- 2006 Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA), The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin, NT –

## Collections

Art Gallery Western Australia



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## Bibliography

- 2012 Acker, T & Carty, J (eds.) 2012, Ngaanyatjarra Art of the Lands, UWAP, Crawley, WA
- 2016 Kelch, J 2016, Pro Community-Ngaanyatjarra Lands, exhibition catalogue, ARTKELCH, Germany
- 2017 Neale, M (ed.) 2017, Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters, National Museum of Australia Press, Canberra, ACT
- 2012 Watson, P (Comp.) 2012, Tjanpi Desert Weavers, MacMillan Art Publishing, South Yarra VIC