



Short St. Gallery

Robert Nanala



Birth Year	1959
Language Group	Pintupi
Region	Balgo, WA

Biography

Robert Nanala Tjapaljarri is a Senior Kukatja-Pintupi Law Man. His family are from Kukatja-Pintupi country near Wilkinkarra (Lake Mackay) in the Great Sandy Desert. Born in 1959 at Balgo Hills Mission, Robert is the son of Ningie Nanala and was grown up by Tjumpo Tjapanangka (dec), he is the eldest child of their large family. Robert is a traveling man, often moving between Broome and Halls Creek in the Kimberley, his home communities of Balgo and Kiwirrkurra. Robert paints independently and for his art centres, eager to paint his country and share his story. Robert is Kimberley representative Director for the WA Interpreting Service. He speaks 7 different First Nation Languages and English. When Robert is not painting with his family, he works in judicial system to assist his people as an interpreter. Robert's paintings represent his connection with his country Wilkinkarra. He paints creation stories including Kangaroo dreaming and mapping of the desert where he grew up. You can see Spinifex, dunes, soakages and the desert coming to life after the summer rains in his art. With his original connection and knowledge of country, and his lived experience, Robert and his paintings are a very special part of Australia's history.

Group Exhibitions

2024 Parlukuluya ninti tjunin – Balgo Mob sharing knowledge - Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree, NSW

2023 WILKINKARRA: a Warlayirti Project - Tamaranthi, Art Gallery of South Australia