



Short St. Gallery

Kuntjil Cooper

Born	c. 1920
Language	Pitjantjatjara
Region	Irrunytju

Biography

"I want to paint tjukurpa for my country. it is important for Irrunytju. Irrunytju is my country. When I am gone my grandchildren will be able to understand their culture when they see my paintings. I want whitefellas to respect anangu culture. When they see these important paintings, they will know that tjukurpa is strong"

Kuntjil Cooper was born at Irrunytju rockhole around 1920. Itjulyanya, Kuntjil's mother's place of birth is close to Kunumata, 50kms south of Nyapari and Kanpi communities. She remembered meeting whitefellas for the first time as a teenager and hearing the bomb blast from Maralinga. "Maybe thunder we thought. We didn't know about those bombs..and we smelt the smoke; funny smell it made us sick. It was smoke from that bomb - that big noise. Some were dying." Kuntjil's paintings usually depict "Minyma Kutjara Tjukurpa", one of the most important women's creation stories of the Western and Southern desert and a special story for Irrunytju. It tells the story of the difficult journey of two sisters who travelled throughout these vast lands.

Group Exhibitions

2011 'Tjungu Palya 2011', Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2010 'Desert Country', Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
2008 'Anangu Backyard - Stories for Children', Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, SA
2007 'Unwankara Ngura Palya' Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, WA
2007. 'Celebration', Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT

Collections

The Corrigan Collection
Art Gallery of South Australia
Art Gallery of Western Australia
National Gallery of Victoria
Merenda Collection, Perth

Bibliographies



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- 2010 Cumpston, Nici & Patton, Barry, 'Desert Country' exhibition catalogue, Art Gallery of South Australia (p.164)
- 2008 McCulloch Childs, Emily & Gibson, Ross, 'New Beginnings – Classic Paintings from the Corrigan Collection of 21st Century Aboriginal Art', McCulloch and McCulloch Australian Art Books, Melbourne, p.117
- 2007 The Canberra Times, 'Tradition and Exploration mix in joy of contemporary indigenous art', Charly Ogilvy, October