



Short St. Gallery



Tjawina Porter

Born	c.1931 - 2024
Language Group	Ngaanyatjarra - Pintubi
Region	NG Lands - Ngaanyatjarra

Tjawina Porter was born around 1931 and grew up in the Western Desert of Australia where she lived a traditional lifestyle with her family. Her birthplace was a site called Wirulyl-Wirulyl, west of Kuruyurtu. She first moved out of the bush to Warburton mission, then travelled to Kaltukatjara (Docker River) before there were any houses.

Tjawina had three children all born in sites around the important country of Pangkupiri, two sons, Charlie and Mal Porter, and a daughter Fiona Young.

After the death of Tjawina's father, her family moved to the then newly established government settlement of Papunya. After she heard family had moved back from the west, Tjawina returned to Kaltukatjara. After a death in the community, many family moved to live at Pulpa, which became an outstation near where the current Tjukurla community is. Everyone moved from Pulpa to Tjukurla when the community was established.

Tjawina now lives between Tjukurla and Kaltukatjara, which are the communities that lie within the boundaries of her ancestral country.

Tjawina is a skilled craftsperson, and was well known for her skills as a traditional basket weaver and carver of punu before becoming recognised for her exceptional painting skills.

Her artworks represent the traditional homelands associated with her people's ancestral heritage. The iconography depicts sand dunes known as 'tali' and rock escarpments known as "puli", as well as waterholes and food sources. Her designs are often used in body art during traditional ceremonies. The artworks depict the physical markings that the ancient ancestors have provided to give evidence of their activities during the time of creation.



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Tjawina's artworks are rich in symbolism and fine detail, with brushwork and dots travelling steadily across the canvas to reveal the undulating forms of her country. Her extensive cultural and topographical knowledge are evident in her paintings, which evoke the movement and energy of desert landscapes.

In the years that Tjawina has been painting she has gained worldwide recognition, participating in many national and international group exhibitions. Her works are represented in private and public collections in Australia and overseas.

Solo Exhibitions

2023	Tjawinaku Tjukurpa Nyinantja – RAFT Artspace, NT
2010	Tjawina Porter Nampitjinpa – Harvey Galleries, NSW

Group Exhibitions

2023	Ngurrampatju, Aboriginal Contemporary, Sydney
2022	Salon Des Refuses, NT
2022	Nguntju Yunaltpa (Mother and Daughter) Aboriginal Contemporary NSW
2021	Walykumunu! Rikini Way! - Yaama Ganu, NSW
2021	Salon Des Refuses 2021
2021	JGM Gallery London - Tjarliri and Kaltukatjara exhibition
2021	Lurtjuringkula/Tjunguringanyi - Aboriginal Contemporary
2020	Desert Mob 2020, Alice Springs
2017	Ng Salon, Tamaranthi Fetsival, Raft Artspace & Hanging Valley, Praxis Gallery
2017	Ngurra: Home on the Ngaanyatjarra lands, South Australia Museum TARNANTHI
2017	Residency, Wintjiri Gallery 2017
2016	Residency, Wintjiri Gallery 2016
2015	Tunbridge Gallery
2015	Wintjiri Gallery
2014	Desert Mob 2014
2014	Our Home in Colour- Outstation Gallery
2012	Watch Me and Learn- Aboriginal and Pacific Arts Sydney
2011	Desert Mob Exhibition - Araluen Arts Centre Alice Springs
2009	Walka Putitja , Short St. Gallery, Broome, WA
2003	Tjanpi at the Kluge Ruhe, University of Virginia, USA
2003	Manguri Goes Home, Tyulyuru Cultural Centre, Waburton
2001	Manguri Weaving Visions Touring Exhibitions
2000	Womens Council 20 years, Desert Gallery, Alice Springs
2000	Desert Mob Show, Araluen Art Centre Alice Springs
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1998	Desert Mob Show, Araluen Art Centre Alice Springs
1997	Tjanpi, Uluru Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre
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1996	Bush Baskets and Bags, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
1995	Womens Business Travelling, Womens Work from WA
1995	Artists in Residence Gallery, Perth, WA

Collections

Australia National University Collection
Art Gallery Of Western Australia - State Collection