



Short St. Gallery



GRACE KEMARRE ROBINYA

Born: 1942
Birth Place: Ntaria
Language Group: Anmattyarre / Arrente
Region: Western / Central Desert

Biography

Robinya was born and raised in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), her father was a Rubuntja from Mt Hay (Urre), and her mother was an Ungkwanaka from Running Water (Irremangkere). Robinya has fond recollections of sewing and playing sport at the Lutheran Mission of Hermannsburg, but admits she eloped at only sixteen with her husband, and never looked back! She married and travelled to Coniston Station with her husband. There she had her children, surrounded by cousins and elders in the then thriving Aboriginal camp located near the then operating station. Her children claim as their father's Country, Paddy's Well, north of 20 Mile Waterhole on Napperby Station.

An artist and seed jeweller of many years standing, Robinya hot-wires and paints traditional patterns onto gum nuts, which she threads together with the Innernte (Batwing Coral) and other seeds she collects during winter. Robinya's paintings have always been highly considered and labour intensive, and generally distinguished by very neat multi-layered dot work, balanced colour schemes and symmetrical compositions. More recently, Robinya's figurative paintings, often near-miniatures, detail important locations and events in her life: her childhood at Hermannsburg Mission and surrounding Ntaria region, or visits to her beloved Irremangkere. She also records details of station life at Coniston and Napperby Stations, where she and her husband worked as a domestic, and ringer respectively, while raising their family. A frequent return visitor to Laramba Aboriginal Community now established on Napperby Station, Robinya also documents exciting football and softball carnivals in which her grandsons and granddaughters feature, playing for the winning Anmatyerr teams. These and other works detail life in the remote Aboriginal communities in which Robinya has lived throughout her life.



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Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 Alherramp – Stories from My Family, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, NT
2013. Solo Exhibition in conjunction with Our Way, Their Way, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, NT

Exhibitions

- 2020 Ration Days, Town Camp Now, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2019 Tarnanhi, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
2019. Looking for home (Para), Merrick's House Art, Merricks, VIC
2019. Desert Mob, Araluen Cultural Centre, Alice Springs, NT
2019. Tangentyere & Yarrenyty Artere Artists, Megafauna Centre, Alice Springs, NT
2019 Mamu – Monster Monster, Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
2019 We from the centre, travelling to the ocean, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2018 Strong Women Painting, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2017 Tangentyere Artists Christmas Show, Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
2017 Mparntwe & Ntaria Itweke-Itwe Mob, Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
2017 Desert Mob, Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs, NT
2017 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin Convention Centre, NT
2016 Town Camp Yarns, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2016 Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs, NT Desert Mob
2016 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin NT
2016, Solo within a Group Exhibition with Ewyeper Atwatye, Hermannsburg Potters and Y Yarrenyty Artere at Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs Arweketye Mob
2016 Aboriginal Art Marketplace, Yulara Tjunga Festival
2015 Tandanya Cultural Centre Tarnanhi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art
2015 Convention Centre, Darwin NT Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
2014 Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery Sydney NSW Figuratively Speaking: Town Camp artists tell their stories
2014 Araluen Cultural Precinct Alice Springs NT Desert Mob 2014
2014 Tangentyere Artists Group Show New Works: Salon Show
2014 Desert Members Exhibition 2014 Seoul Open Art Fair
2014 Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists, A Survey
2013 Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT New Work by Tangentyere Artists
2013 Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Open Day - New Art Centre
2013 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob Exhibition
2013 Central Craft, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists
2013 Raft Art Space, Alice Springs NT Our Way, Their Way - Group Show with Yarrenyty Artere Artists



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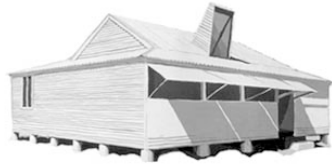
- 2012 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob Exhibition
- 2012 Short Street Gallery, Broome WA Town Camp Art - Tangentyere Artists
- 2012 4 Elder Street Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Open Day
- 2012 Cooee Aboriginal Art Gallery, Sydney NSW Songlines - A Cooee Christmas
- 2012 William Mora Gallery, Melbourne VIC Tangentyere Artists - Recent Paintings
- 2012 Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Exhibition – Human Rights FilmFestival
- 2012 Convention Centre, Darwin NT Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
- 2011 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob Exhibition
- 2011 Olive Pink Botanical Gardens, Alice Springs NT Human Rights Film Festival
- 2011 Royal Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne VIC Melbourne Affordable Art Fair
- 2011 Japingka Indigenous Fine Art Gallery, Fremantle WA Our Homes: Town Camp & Beyond
- 2011 Bright Gallery, VIC Time and Place - Group Indigenous Art Show
- 2011 Convention Centre, Darwin NT Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
- 2010 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob Exhibition
- 2010 Mossenson Gallery, Melbourne VIC Tjintu Kutjupa
- 2010 Peta Appleyard Gallery, Alice Springs NT Coming Together
- 2010 ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore Urban Aboriginal Art - A Survey Show
- 2009 Japingka Indigenous Fine Art Gallery, Fremantle WA Anwemekenhe Ayeye
- 2008 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob Exhibition
- 2008 Japingka Indigenous Fine Art Gallery, Fremantle WA Town Camps and Coloured Mission Blankets
- 2008 Birrung Gallery, Sydney NSW My House - Central Australian Art Centre Show
- 2008 John Gordon Gallery, Coffs Harbour NSW Telling the Town Camp Story
- 2007 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob Exhibition
- 2007 Birrung Gallery, Sydney NSW Alice Springs Art
- 2006 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Inaugural Town Camps Exhibition

Awards

- 2019 Telstra NATSIAA Finalist, MAGNT, Darwin, NT
- 2018. Finalist, 40th Alice Prize National Contemporary Art Award, Araluen Cultural Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2018 Highly Comended Finalist, 2018 Macquarie Group Emerging Artists awards, Melbourne, VIC

Collections

Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
Macquarie Bank Collection, Sydney, NSW



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Bibliography

- 2012 Mother Courage, Warwick Thornton. Grace Robinya played Thorntons grandmother. Commissioned by dOCUMENTA (13) and ACMI.
- 2017 Artsits Profile, Darren Joregnsen Art Collector Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair Special Edition