



Short St. Gallery



Ruth Fatt

Born	1960
Language Group	Pitjantjatjara
Region	Kanpi SA

Ruth was born in the bush at Granite Downs cattle station around 1960 where her parents were working as station hands. Her father's country is Kampurarpapiti in Western Australia and her mother's place is Tjalinya close to Tjuntjuntjara (Spinifex Country) also in Western Australia. Ruth's grandfather had three wives, as was common for traditional Pitjantjatjara men. Ruth's grandmother was the first wife. Wingu Tingima was the third wife and culturally one of Ruth's grandmothers.

Ruth has powerful links to the desert. Traditional knowledge of food collection and water sources were vital for survival in this dynamic desert landscape and is a prominent theme in her work. Ruth has cultural connection to Kuru Ala, and other sites associated with the Seven Sisters Tjukurpa; to Kata Ala, Pukara, Punuwara and Irrunytju.

This cultural knowledge is handed down orally in the retelling of the Tjukurpa (traditional stories of the ancestor's journeys), which not only sustains Anangu (Aboriginal people) physically, but socially and spiritually. Tjukurpa painting depicts a fragment of a larger story, a living history where an ancestor was involved in creating country.

Ruth has family ties with Marangka Baker, Tjayanka Woods, Anmanari Brown and Wingu Tingima and together with their families they have authority and ownership of this land and the associated sites and stories. Wingu narrated the following story for Kuru Ala, "This is Kungkarrakalpa Tjukurpa (Seven Sisters Story). Secret country for women. The seven sisters



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were stopping close up to Kuru Ala. They are sitting near the cave they are living in. One man, Nyiru, was watching all the young girls. He was trying to get one of the sisters to be his wife, but they didn't want that old man. The sisters were going in Kuru Ala and they saw a quandong tree. They all rushed in for the quandongs. "This isn't really quandongs" they said, after tasting them, "must be that wati Nyiru trying to trick us." They were running and hiding from him and ran into the cave."

Group Exhibitions

- 2019 Resonance, Aboriginal Signature Gallery, Brussels, Belgium.
- 2018 Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs NT-Bold & Beautiful
- 2018 Desert Mob, Arulum Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2018 Bold and Beautiful, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2017 PALYA: NYAPARI NOW, Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2017 'Ngayulu Mantangka Walkatjunanyi' Outstation Gallery Darwin.
- 2017 Bruxelles, Belgium - Group Exhibition « Empreintes Eternelles » at the Aboriginal Signature Estrangin gallery
- 2016 Good Together, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2014 Tjungu Palya, Tunbridge, Subiaco, WA.
- 2013 Tjukurpa Wangka: Storytellers. Short St Gallery , Broome, WA.
- 2013 New Paintings Chapman Gallery, Canberra.
- 2013 Minymaku Ara - Womens Way, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria.
- 2013 Tjintu Kutjupa Tjintu Kutupa - Desert Days", Reddot Gallery, Singapore.
- 2012 'Kanpi Car Show' – McCulloch & McCulloch @ Salt Contemporary, Queenscliff, Victoria.
- 2012 Tjungu Palya
- 2012 Outstation Gallery, Darwin
- 2011 Tjungu Palya 2011 Short St Gallery, Broome, Western Australia
- 2011 Desert Mob 2011 Araluen Art Gallery, Alice Springs, Northern Territory.
- 2011 Our Mob Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, South Australia
- 2011 Tjungu Palya Minymaku Tjukurpa Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria
- 2011 Shalom Gamarada Art fair Woollahra, Sydney, New South Wales.
- 2011 'Tjungu Palya 2011', Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2011 'Ngura Tjukuritja - A Dreaming Place', Marshall Arts, Adelaide, South Australia
- 2010 'Inma Mantankja Ngarinyi - Song of the Land', Putipula Gallery, Noosa, Queensland
- 2010 'Tjukurpa', Outstation Gallery, Darwin, Northern Territory
- 2010 'Partnerships', Marshall Arts, Adelaide, South Australia
- 2009 'Our Mob', Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, South Australia
- 2008 'Our Mob', Festival Theatre Centre, Adelaide, South Australia
- 2007 'Uwankara Ngura Pulka', Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, Western Australia
- 2006 'Desert Mob', Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Northern Territory



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Collections

Artbank, Australian Government National Contemporary Art Rental
W & V McGeoch Collection, Melbourne, Victoria
The Lepley Collection, Perth, Western Australia

Bibliographies

2010 - James, Dianna, 'Colour Comes Up From the Ground', Outstation catalogue,
Darwin, NT