



Short St. Gallery



Angkaliya Curtis

Born	1928
Language Group	Pitjantjatjara
Region	APY Lands

Angkaliya was born in 1928 at Miti in the South Australian Pitjantjatjara Lands. When she was small she travelled with her mother to Watarru (her mother's country). The family spent time at Ernabella Mission and cattle station properties exchanging animal skins (dingoes and rabbits) for flour and sugar. She married and lived at Ernabella where she worked in the craft room spinning wool and making rugs. In the 1960's she moved closer to her traditional homeland when the community Amata began.

Today she lives and works between Nyapari Community and cave hill. Angkaliya lived a semi-nomadic lifestyle often walking long distances in the desert where traditional knowledge of the country, it's waterholes and food supplies, are vital to survival. She learned from her mother and grandmother the secrets of the land and acquired an intimate understanding of the environment and the ancestral creation stories associated with it.

When Angkaliya was a young girl she learned about traditional foods and their preparation from the older women around her. She gathered foods such as ili (native fig), kumpurapa (desert raisins), tjala (honey ants), maku (witchetty grubs), ngintaka (perentie goanna), tjati (edible lizard) and anumara (edible caterpillars). She also knew about minkulpa (native tobacco) and other plants with medicinal properties. She gathered lmangka-lmankga grinding the small sticky leaf of the native eremophila and mixing it with emu fat to make a poultice for muscular aches and pains. She learned what seed to collect to grind to a flour to make into small cakes cooked in the hot ashes from the fire. She made wiltjas (simple dwellings - shade structures from branches), yuu (windbreaks), and carved utensils from local trees such as wana (wooden digging stick) and piti (collecting bowls). She read the desert sands for tracks and hunted small animals. She spun hair on a handmade spindle for ceremonial belts and manguri (woven head rings).



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Art and craft are still important to Angkaliya and she maintains a prolific weaving and artefact production. Her camp is scattered with discarded raffia and spinifex from the tjanpi baskets she makes in the evenings and during the weekends. During the week Angkaliya is a dedicated painter, she is often the first to arrive in the studio and the last to leave, maintaining a slow and rhythmic approach to building up her artworks. In recent years Angkaliya has shifted away from the quirky figurative depictions of animals she was famous for, towards a more abstracted sense of knowledge and cultural integrity and act as an armature off which she hangs beautiful tracts of colour blended together with her signature painterly marks. In later life she favours large paintings as they allow her to a grand story full of intensity and power. These textured baskets and wooden carvings are distinctive in their unique quirkiness, a quality she also brings to her paintings. Angkaliya's paintings have a unique quality. A scattering of animals, plants and people drawn with a finely detailed line work. The representation of rock holes, creeks and other topographical elements are interspersed with people and animals going about their daily activities.

Group Exhibitions

2019	Resonance, Aboriginal Signature Gallery, Brussels, Belgium.
2019	Desert Mob, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs NT
2019	New Works from Tjungu Palya, Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney NSW Australia
2019	Tungu Palyangku Tjukurpa titujara kunpu ngaranytja-ku, Artbank Gallery, Sydney and Melbourne
2018	Ancient Stories New Narratives: 21st Century Aboriginal Womens Art, new works from the Sim Dickson Collection Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre 2018
2018	Kuwaritja, Redot Art, Singapore
2017	Bruxelles, Belgium, Group exhibition, Empreintes Eternelles, at the Aboriginal Signature, Estrangin gallery
2016	Nganampa Killipil: Our Stars, Sydney, NSW
2016	DesertMob, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
2015	DesertMob. Arauen Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
2015	Knokke, BELgium - Group Exhibition, Resonance millenaire, The Aboriginal Signature, Estrangin Gallery at teh Nocturnes Knokke Art Fair
2015	Bruxelles, BELgium, Group Exhibition, paysages Incarnes, at the Aboriginal Signature, Estrangin gallery
2014	31st Telstra NATSIAA, Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
2014	Tjungu Palya, Tunbridge Subiaco, WA
2014	Tjukutjuku walka walka walka walka walka pulka tjukurpa, Outstation, Darwin, NT



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- 2013 A study of the Figurative in Desert painting, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2013 New Paintings Chapman Gallery, Canberra
- 2013 Titutjara: Always Here, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney NSW
- 2013 APY Lands Survey Exhibition, Outstation Gallery Darwin NT
- 2013 Tjintu Kutjupa Tjintu Kutupa - Desert Days", Reddot Gallery, Singapore
- 2013 Minymaku Ara, Womens Way, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2013 Tjukurpa Wangka: Storytellers, Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2013 Shalom Gamarada Art Fair Woolhara, Sydney, New South Wales
- 2012 Tjungu Kujutu: Together as One, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
- 2012 Tjungu Palya Tjukurpa, Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2012 Desert Mob 2012 Aralven Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs
- 2012 Tjungu Palya 2012, Outstation Gallery, Darwin
- 2011 Tjungu Palya Minymaku Tjukurpa, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria
- 2011 Tjungu Palya Tjukurpa Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney, New South Wales
- 2011 Tjungu Palya Minymaku Tjukurpa Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2011 Living Water National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 2011 Western Australia Indigenous Art Award Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA
- 2011 Ngura Tjukuritja - A Dreaming Place, Marshall Arts, Adelaide SA
- 2011 Intangibles in Terra Australis Flinders University City Gallery, State Library of SA, Adelaide, SA
- 2011 Animal Magic Maroondah Art Gallery, Ringwood, VIC
- 2011 Western APY Lands, Artkelch, Freiburg, Germany
- 2011 28th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Gallery of the Northern Territory
- 2011 Tjungu Palya 2011 Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2011 DesertMob Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Northern Territory
- 2010 Tjukurpa Pulkatjara: The poser of the Law, South Australian Museum, Adelaide, SA
- 2010 Senior Artist- Important New Works, Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, WA
- 2010 DesertMob Araluen, Alice Springs, NT
- 2010 Ngaranyi Kunpu - Standing Strong Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney NSW
- 2010 Inma Mantangka Ngarinyi - Song of the AInd, Putipula Gallery, Noosa, Queensland
- 2010 Tjungu Palya Survey Show, Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2010 Tjukurpa Outstation Gallery, Darwin, Northern Territory



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2010	'Intangibles in Terra Australis', Sala kubo-kutxa in association with Marshall Arts, San Sebastian, Spain
2010	'Partnerships', Marshall Arts, Adelaide, SA
2010	'Senior Artists - Important New Works', Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, WA
2010	'Tjukurpa Pulkatjara: The Power of the Law', South Australian Museum, Adelaide, SA
2010	'Raft Launch', Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, NT
2009	'Kulini Ngura - KNowing Country', Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2009	'Wanapiku Munu Kalayaku Ngura', Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
2009	'Tali Tjintiri - Tjintiri Munu Kapi Tjukula', Tjungu Palya Print Show, Nomad Gallery, Refection Room, Holiday Inn, Darwin, NT
2009	'Desert Mob', Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
2008	'Manta Nyangatja Pitjanjatjara', Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2008	'Tjukurpa Kutjupa Kutjupa Tjuta', Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney, NSW
2008	'Women's Show', Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2008	'Tjukurpa Kunpu', Marshall Arts, Adelaide, SA
2008	'Iwara Mantangka - Land Lines', Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, WA
2007	'Desert Mob', Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
2007	'Uwankara Ngura Palya', Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, WA

Collections

Artbank, Australian Government National Contemporary Art Rental
Australian National University, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.
Deakin University, Melbourne, Victoria.
Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia.
Harriett And Richard England Collection, Sydney, New South Wales
Lagerberg-Swift Collection, Perth, Western Australia
Marshall Collection, Adelaide SA
Lagerberg-Swift Collection, Perth WA
Harriet & Richard England Collection, Sydney, NSW
Australian National University, Canberra, ACT
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne VIC
Artbank, Australian Government National Contemporary Art Rental
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT
Deakin University, Melbourne VIC
Flinders University, Adelaide, SA
Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane QLD
The Beat Knoblauch Collection, Switzerland
The Lepley Collection, Perth WA



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The Parliament House Collection, Canberra ACT
University of Canberra, ACT
W & V McGeoch, Melbourne VIC
The Sims Dickson Collection

Bibliographies

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- 2010 James, Dianna. Colour comes up from the ground. Outstation catalogue, Darwin 2020
- 2010 Desart, Desert Mob Catalogue, Alice Spring, 2010 pg.28
- 2010 'Tjukurpa Pulkatjara: The Power of the Law', exhibition catalogue, Ananguku Arts Wakefield Press, p. 42, 43
- 2010 IAD Press, Julurpa Calendar, July - Internal image, Ngintaka
- 2009 Rothwell, Nicholas. "Painting the Song of the Land", The Australian, 11 Sept 2009
- 2009 Rothwell, Nicholas, 'Shifting Strands of the Desert', The Australian, 8 Sept 2009
- 2009 Guide to Aboriginal Art Centres, Australian Art Collector, p. 43
- 2009 Cruthers, John, 'Tjukurpa Mantataja - Stories from the Land', Australian Aboriginal Art, Issue 1. March 2009
- 2007 - Ogilvy, Charly. 'Tradition and Exploration Mix in Joy of Contemporary Indigenous Art', The Canberra Times, 25 October 2007

Awards

- 2014 Finalist 2014 Telstra National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Awards
- 2013 Finalist 30th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2011 Finalist 28th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2011 Finalist Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards
- 2010 Finalist 27th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2003 Finalist 20th Telstra National Ab