



Short St. Gallery

Kathleen (Kanta) Donnegan

Born 1944
Language Pitjantjatjara
Region Tjuntjuntjara WA



Biography

Kanta was born circa 1944 in the gentle sand plain country of southern Spinifex between the Tjuntun and Unpun rock holes. The ubiquitous men's tjukurpa, Wati Kutjara (Two Men) courses through the middle of Kanta's country on its way east to S.A. where it acts as the lynch pin for two other men's tjukurpa heading to a common destination at Kaliwani (Lake Maurice).

Kanta went into Cundeelee Mission in the late 1950s sweep a young married woman without children. Kanta had one son and three daughters by her first husband (dec.) in Cundeelee and returned to Spinifex in the first wave of re-settlers in 1984. Apart from attending the odd exhibition or women's trip to the outside Kanta has not left the desert lands since. Several years after the Rictor family came in from northern Spinifex she married one of the sons, Ian - her kuri pikitja, often translated as "promised one". As if forged by the early years in her country Kanta is gentle soul and has assiduously painted with the Spinifex Art Project since representing her country in the women's native title painting in 1997. Kathleen has painted on most of the women's collaboratives.

Kanta's own works are succinct and economic but also fulsome without being over busy. In effect they are patently honest portrayals of her country between Tjuntun, Unpun and Kapi Piti Kutjara - an epitome of the artist herself. Kanta was a finalist (as part of the Women's Collaborative), Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards 2009, Art gallery of W.A. Perth.

Group Exhibitions

2022 MINYMA, Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney, NSW
2022 Short Street Gallery Broome
2022 Aluni - Resonance - Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
2021 DesertMob 2021, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs N.T.
2020 Spinifex Artists - On Our Country, Japingka Gallery Fremantle. W.A.
2020 Art Paris 2020, ARTKELCH at Art Paris 2020, Paris, France
2019 Kungarungkalpa Short St Gallery, Broome WA
2019 Explosion, Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels



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- 2019 Womens Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, VIC
2018 In Kurze: Pila Nguruku Kapi Walkatjara – Painted Waters of Spinifex Country, ARTKELCH, Sculpturenpark Wesenberg, BerlinGermany
2018 Ngura Ninti -Knowing Country, Arkelch, Freiburg Germany
2018 Convoking the Genesis – Eurantica – Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels
2017 'Spinifex Ascendent' Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
2017 AUSTRALIA Gems from the remote Deserts, Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels
2017 Spinifex: Aboriginal Paintings from the Robert Kaplan & Margaret Levi Collection, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno,Nevada. U.S.A.
2016 Pila Nguratja - In Spinifex Country Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
2016 Desert Mob Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, N.T.
2016 Rawa Nyinanyi- Unbroken. Outstation Gallery, Darwin. N.T.
2016 Exposition Spinifex Arts Project, Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Fine Art, Belgium
2016 Purungu und Narrupa Sammlung, in association with P. & A. Klein and ArtKelch Kunstwerk, Germany
2015 Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney, N.S.W. Spinifex Arts Project
2015 Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide. SA. Tarnanthi
2015 Outstation Gallery, Darwin. N.T. Kulunypa- selected small works from the Spinifex Arts Project
2014 Spinifex Artists, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle W.A
2014 Tjuntjuntjara Nguratja- Tjuntjuntjara is home Harvey Art Projects, Sun Valley, Idaho, USA
2014 Spinifex Tjukurpa, ReDot Gallery, Singapore.
2014 Spinifex Arts Project 2014, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC.
2014 Salon des Refuses, Outstation and Paul Johnstone Galleries. Stokes Hill Wharf, Darwin, N.T. Womens Collaborative
2014 Pila- Spinifex Land Outstation Gallery, Parap, Darwin. NT.
2014 DesertMob Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, N.T. (collab with Yarangka Thomas)
2014 Australian Contemporary Indigenous Art 111 Chiaroscuro Contemporary Art in association with Vivien Anderson Gallery, Santa Fe, USA
2013 Spinifex Arts Project ArtKelch, Freiburg, Munich, Hamburg, Bodensee, Lake Constance, Germany.
2013 Salon des Refuses, Outstation and Paul Johnstone Galleries
2013 Kuwaritja - New Works of the Spinifex People Outstation Gallery, Darwin,
2012 Tupun Nguranguru – People of the Sandhill Country 45 Downstairs Gallery, Vivien Anderson, Melbourne.
2012 Spinifex - People of the Sun and Shadow John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia



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- 2005 Law and Land Aboriginal Art Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
2002 Putitja Nguru - Art of the Spinifex People Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, W.A.
2001 Flinders Arts Museum, Adelaide, S.A. 2001 Broken Hill City Regional Art Gallery, Broken Hill, N.S.W.
2001 All About Art Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Vic.
2000 Pila Nguru - Art and Song of the Spinifex People Western Australian Museum, Perth, W.A and national tour.

Awards

- 2015 Finalist (Women's Collaborative) 32nd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museums and Art Galleries, Darwin, N.T
2009 Finalist (Women's Collaborative), Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards Art Gallery of W.A, Perth.

Bibliography

- 2002 Cane, S. 'Pila Nguru: The Spinifex People', Fremantle Arts Centre Press, Fremantle, WA.
2008 McCulloch Childs, E. New Beginnings: Classic Paintings from the Corrigan Collection of 21st Century Aboriginal Art, Melbourne.
2009 Art Gallery of WA 2009 Catalogue, W.A Indigenous Art Awards,
2012 Rothwell, Nicolas. "Paintings of lifetimes in the desert" The Australian, August 6th 2012.
2012 Hackett, J. Forrest, S. Malcolm, C. Cane, S. Carty, J. Lane, C. Cruthers, J. Chadwick, R. Allerton, L. 'Spinifex: People of the Sun and Shadow' (exh. cat) John Curtin Gallery, Perth. W. A.
2012 Jorgensen, D.J. 2012, 'No Place Without Other Places: Spinifex Arts Project at fifteen years', ARTLINK: Australian contemporary art quarterly, 32, 2, pp. 86-87.
2013 Rothwell, Nicolas. "Dilemma of difference in indigenous art awards", The Australian August 13, 2013
2013 Jukurpa Diary 2014. IAD Press, Alice Springs, N.T. (Women's Collaborative)

Collections

- Art Gallery of South Australia (Womens Collaborative)
Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra, Act
Artbank, Australian Government Collection. Australia.



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Prince Stefan Of Liechtenstein, Germany. (Womens Collaborate)

Museum Of Western Australia

The Corrigan Collection, Australia. (Womens Collaborative)

The Lepley Collection, Perth Wa (Womens Collaborative)

NGV – Melbourne (Womens Collaborative)

The Sims Dickson Collection, NSW (Collaborative With Ngalpingka Simms)

UWS University Collection NSW