

Short St. Gallery



Marie Mudgedell

Born 1952
Language Group Jaru / Kukatja / Ngarti
Region Balgo

Biography

Marie is the oldest daughter of Ma (Bridget) Mudgedell (deceased). She was born at Sturt Creek Station and later moved to Ruby Plains with her family. Her mother's country was near Yagga Yagga, Ngardi people's country. Her father was from Sturt Creek, a place called Killi Killi. Marie left her family to attend the school at Balgo Mission. When she finished her schooling she worked in the laundry of Billiluna Station where she met her husband, fellow artist Patrick (Jupiter) Smith, with whom she moved to Balgo to put their children through school. Marie comes from a large painting family, her brother Brian and sister Patsy are also accomplished painters.

It was at Balgo that Marie started painting her water dreaming and the country of Sturt Creek. Marie has been involved with the Language Center producing Tjukurrpa stories for the children in traditional language. She is a Church leader and strong law woman: she takes the young girls through ceremony; is a respected storyteller, and is knowledgeable about bush medicines. Marie paints Yawulyu - an annual women's ceremony and gathering which is a creation story from a long me ago. It is a special women's ceremony where many women come together from all different tribes and language groups to share their songs and dance. Marie also paints about the traditional birthing process, and the rituals and joy surrounding new life. The bush baby story is about the proper way babies are traditionally born. Women of the right skin set up camp while the men are not to enter, the men have their own ceremony away from the women. The women with the wrong skin sit between the two camps and look after the children. Birth is sacred. This is how Marie was born and she has witnessed and participated in many of these sacred ceremonies.

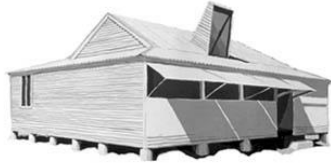


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Marie is a highly talented linguist in both Ngardi and Kukatja languages. Marie is one of the last speakers of Ngarti, she and her husband are working on a Ngardi dictionary to ensure the language is not forgotten.

Group Exhibitions

- 2022 Journey of Discovery – Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin
- 2021 Desert Mob – Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
- 2021 Kutjarra Nungurrayi, Murntu Nakamarra: Two Nungurrayi, Four Nakamarra – Short Street Gallert, Broome
- 2020 Kuwarritjanuluya Wakarninpa: a new generation are doing it now - Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin
- 2019 Wirrimanu Balgo Artists - Japingka Aboriginal Art, Fremantle 2019
Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
- 2018 WAU! Focus in Western Australia - Rovaniemi Museum, Finland 2015
Warlayirti Artists – Art from Balgo - Art Atrium, Sydney
- 2015 Warlayirti Artists - Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin 2014 Warlayirti Artists - Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin 2014 Balgo: Past & Present - Cooee Gallery, Sydney
- 2014 Balgo 14 - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
- 2013 Warlayirti Artists - Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin
- 2013 Convergence, Warlayirti Artists - Short St Gallery, Broome
- 2013 Balgo Survey - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
- 2012 Warlayirti Artists - Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin
- 2012 Warlayirti Artists - Desert Mob Exhibition
- 2008 Balgo Survey, Christmas exhibition - Redot Gallery, Singapore
- 2008 The Power of Observation Emerging Artists Exhibition - Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs
- 2007 Group Show - Tony Bond Gallery, Adelaide
- 2007 New Balgo Prints & Glass - Northern Editions, Darwin
- 2006 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
- 2006 Balgo Survey Show - Redot Gallery, Singapore
- 2006 Balgo Survey Show - Raft Gallery, Darwin
- 2005 Glass from the Sand Country - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2005 Balgo 2005 - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
- 1999 Dreaming in Colour: Australian Aboriginal Art from Balgo - University of Virginia, USA
- 1998 Dreamings - Vlaams-Europeesch Conferentiecentrum, Brussels, Belgium
- 1998 Bush Tucker - University of Virginia, Virginia, USA



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1989 Warlayirti Artists: Continuing Links with Land - Coo-ee Aboriginal Art
Gallery, Paddington

Collections

University of Newcastle, NSW
The Lavery Collection
Kluge-Ruhe Collection, USA