



# Short St. Gallery



## SALLY M MULDA

Born: 1957  
Birth Place: Titjikala  
Language Group: Arrente/Pitjantjatjara  
Region: Western / Central Desert

Other Languages: Luritja and Yankunytjatjara

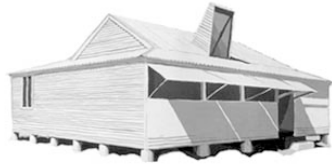
### Biography

Born at Titjikalah her parents from Erdunda and Aputula regions she and fellow artist Margaret Boko met at Amoonguna at school when their families were moved there. Mulda has lived in Alice Springs since she married and had her only child as a young woman. After losing the use of her left arm in a childhood accident Mulda later faced the challenge of losing her sight in one eye. Widowed and without children, Mulda lived with friends and extended family in Alice Springs for many years. From the outset Mulda sought to record those interactions that constitute life for so many Aboriginal people today.

Initially Mulda struggled with painting because of her compromised vision, but following surgery on her good eye, Mulda grew in confidence to create her own rich and fluid figurative style that celebrates her place in the world. Mulda loosely applies layers of colour in broad brush strokes to depict the world around her.

Of Mulda's domestic environment tap drips into a bowl for the dogs, children, play, men and women sit in the shade occasionally playing cards, making punu and seed jewellery, playing with babies, celebrating important events, occasionally drinking, while ranges in the background pulse with the heat, or the stars shine in clear skies. Further afield, Mulda explores life since the Intervention: camping in the riverbed in swags, Council rangers moving people on, police pouring out grog, or taking people off to sober up. Mulda observes minutiae, such as the navy-blue Northern Territory police uniform introduced in early 2012.

Mulda records events she witnesses and experiences without any particular judgement. It is as it is. Her oeuvre represents a journalistic approach to local situations. This is especially pertinent in that many of her paintings include text that explains each scene in strong and



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simple language. This form of social commentary on the daily lives of Town Camp residents in Alice Springs represents an important catalogue of lived experiences captured for posterity.

As Mulda explained about her many years living at Little Sisters Town Camp located at the base of Mt Gillen just south of Heavy tree Gap 'Us grownups sitting one and all, kids playing and making noise on the other side, and dogs - big - little -all running round making noise all feeling good for home you know?'

In 2011 Mulda moved to Abbott's Town Camp located by the Todd River. Life is slightly different for her there and as a result of the move Mulda's paintings some including text continue to reveal more fascinating insights about life today in Central Australia. Mulda was a finalist in the Telstra 2012 National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award and was the winner of the 2011 'Rights on Show' Annual Human Rights Art Award and Exhibition. Her work has been acquired by many private collections and several public institutions.

## **Solo Exhibitions**

- 2019. Talking Story, Apinting Story, Raft Art Space, Alice Springs, NT
- 2018. No Trouble Here, Edwina Corlette Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
- 2016 Raft Art space Gallery, Alice Springs NT: Town Camp Stories
- 2013 Painting My Town Camp Stories, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, NT

## **Group Exhibitions**

- 2020 Ration Days, Town Camp Now, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2019 Taranathi, 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 Christmas Show, Tangentyere Artists Gallery Alice Springs NT
- 2017 Taranathi Festival, Tandanya Cultural Centre, Adelaide, SA
- 2017 Mparntwe & Ntaria Itweke-Itwe Mob, Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2017 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin Convention Centre, NT
- 2017 Desert Mob, Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs, NT
- 2017 Together our Stories Are Stronger, Merricks General Store, VIC
- 2017 Tangentyere Artists New Works, Tangentyere Artists Gallery Alice Springs, NT
- 2017 Ngura Kutjupa Walytja Kutju, Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs, NT



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- 2017 Always Was Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs, 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 Group Exhibition with Ewyenper Atwatye Artists Hermansburg Potters and Yarrenyty Artlere Artists at Tangentyere Artists Gallery Arweketye Mob
- 2016 Tangentyere Artists Gallery Alice Springs NT Recent Works
- 2015 Art Gallery South Australia, Adelaide, SA Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art
- 2015 Tandanya Cultural Centre Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art
- 2015 Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs, NT SELFIES 2 | Town Campers
- 2015 Araluen Cultural Precinct Alice Springs NT Desert Mob - 25 Year Commemorative Exhibition
- 2015 Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin NT Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
- 2015 Convention Centre, Darwin NT Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
- 2015 NIEAUNSW Galleries, Sydney NSW We are in Wonder LAND: New Experimental Art from Central Australia
- 2015 Art Images Gallery, Norwood, SA Desert Dreaming featuring Artworks from 6 Art Centres from Central Australia
- 2014 Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery Sydney NSW Figuratively Speaking: Town Camp artists tell their stories
- 2014 Tangentyere Artists Gallery Alice Springs NT Selfies: Representation of Self by Town Camp Artists
- 2014 Araluen Cultural Precinct Alice Springs NT Desert Mob 2014
- 2014 In support of Artists in Black Arts Law Art Auction Fundraising Event
- 2014 Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin 8th Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
- 2014 Touring Exhibition of Aboriginal women's art of the Central and Western Deserts from the Sims Dickson Collection Strong Women Strong Painting Strong Culture
- 2014 Tangentyere Artists Group Show New Works: Salon Show
- 2014 DAX Centre University of Melbourne, Parkville VIC Healing Ways: Art with Intent
- 2014 Desert Members Exhibition 2014 Seoul Open Art Fair
- 2014 Boomali Cooperative Sydney NSW Right Now
- 2014 Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists, A Survey
- 2013 Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT A Survey of Works
- 2013 Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT New Work by Tangentyere Artists
- 2013 Alice Springs Telegraph Station & Tangentyere Artists Gallery Family Trees Mbantua Festival Exhibition, Curated by Hetti Perkins – Desert Art Centres
- 2013 Tangentyere Artists Gallery Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists – Open Day of New Art Centre
- 2013 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre Alice Springs NT Desert Mob Exhibition



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- 2013 Central Craft, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists  
2013 Raft Art Space, Alice Springs NT Our WayTheir Way - Group Show with Yarrenyty Artere Artists  
2013 Merenda Fine Art Gallery, Fremantle WA Margaret Boko and Sally Mulda  
2013 Cross Art Projects Gallery – Travelling Exhibition. Ghost Citizens: Witnessing the Intervention – Group Indigenous Artist Show, Curated by Jo Holder and Djon Mundine OAM  
2012 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob Exhibition  
2012 Human Rights Film Festival Olive Pink Botanic Gardens, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Exhibition  
2012 Short Street Gallery ,Broome WA Town Camp Art - Tangentyere Artists  
2012 Cooee Aboriginal Art Gallery, Sydney NSW Songlines – A Cooee Christmas  
2012 Convention Centre, Darwin NT Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair  
2012 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT Alice Springs Beanie Festival  
2012 HUB Space, Alice Springs NT Alice Desert Festival  
2012 CHAN Contemporary Art Space, Darwin NT THREE - Group Show Co-  
2012 4 Elder Street, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Open Day  
2012 Group Indigenous Artist Show - Curator Djon Mundine - Cross Art Projects Gallery, Sydney NSW Ghost, Citizens: Witnessing the Intervention  
2012 William Mora Gallery, Melbourne VIC Tangentyere Artists: Recent Paintings  
2012 Merenda Gallery, Perth WA Tangentyere Artists  
2012 Finalist Telstra NATSIAA. MAGNT Darwin NT  
2011 Human Rights Film Festival Olive Pink Botanical Gardens Darwin NT  
2011 Tangentyere Artists, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne VIC  
2011 The Lighthouse Murals Darwin Festival. Festival Park Darwin NT  
2011 Tangentyere Artists, Kate Owen Gallery, Adelaide, SA  
2011 TangentyereAP Bond Gallery, Adelaide, SA  
2011 Our Homes: Town Camp and Beyond. Japingka Indigenous Fine Art Gallery Fremantle WA  
2011 Desert Mob. Araluen Centre Alice Springs, NT  
2011 Rights on Show. Darwin Community Legal Service Annual Human Rights Art Awards& Exhibition.  
2011 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Convention Centre, Darwin NT  
2011 Melbourne Affordable Art Fair. Exhibition Building Melbourne VIC  
2010 Desert Mob. Araluen Centre Alice Springs NT  
2010 Urban Aboriginal Art- A survey show. ReDot Gallery, Singapore  
2010 Coming Together. Peta Appleyard Gallery, Alice Springs. NT  
2010 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair. Darwin NT  
2010 Art from the heart of the town camps. Outstation Darwin, NT  
2010 Tjintu Kutjupa, Every day life. Mossenson Gallery, Melbourne VIC  
2009 Desert Mob. Araluen Centre, Alice Springs. NT  
2009 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair. Darwin NT



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- 2009 Anwernekenhe Ayeye, The Story Belonging to us. Japingka Gallery ,Perth WA  
2008 Birrung Gallery, Sydney NSW My House - Central Australian Art Centre Show  
2008 Town Camps & Coloured Blankets. Japingka Gallery Perth, WA

## **Collections**

Darwin Festival Lighthouse Murals Darwin, NT  
Anthropology Museum The University of QLD, Brisbane  
Utrecht Museum of Contemporary Aboriginal Art, Utrecht, The Netherlands  
Deborah Sims & Matt Dickson Collection  
The Brian Tucker Collection  
The John Cruthers Collection  
University of Queensland Collection  
Art Gallery of NSW  
Araluen Art & Cultrual Preceinet Gallery Collection

## **Bibliography**

- 2016 Biddle, Jennifer L, Remote Avant-Garde: Aboriginal Art under Occupation Duke University Press, p: 70-76.  
2016 Finnane Kieran, From ceremony to selfies, Art Monthly Australasia, Issue 287, March 2016, p:68-70.  
2015 Byrne, Joanna Sophie Wallace and Tangentyere Artists, Making Place Tangentyere Artists and Yarrenyty Artere Artists, Tarnanthi Exhibition Catalogue, Art Gallery South Australia, p: 92-97  
2015 Cumpston, Nici and Nick Mitzevich, Tarnanthi At The Gallery, Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art p: 9-16.  
2012 Galatis, Emilia, Feature: Dark Clouds and Bright Futures: Current Climates in Australian Aboriginal Art Sites 95 Issue 9, September 2012p: 15-18

## **Awards**

- 2019 Sir John Sulman Prize Finalist, AGNSW, Sydney, NSW  
2019 NATSIA Finalist, Darwin, NT  
2018 NATSIAA Finalist, MAGNT, Darwin, NT  
2012 Telstra NATSIAA Finalist - MAGNT Darwin, NT  
2011 Rights On Show Award – Darwin Community Legal Service Annual Human Rights Art Awards, Supreme Court Foyer, Darwin, NT