



# Short St. Gallery



## Betty Conway

**Born:** 1952  
**Language Group:** Pintupi / Luritja  
**Region:** Western / Central Desert

Betty was born in the "homestead creek" at Tempe Downs Station in Central Australia in 1952. Her mother had walked in with an extended group from Mutotjulu region (not then a community) to Lyndavale Station and then on to Tempe Downs in the 10 years prior to Betty's birth, due to drought.

Betty relocated to Utju (Areyonga) Community in her early school years, living with other extended family but always returning home when possible. Later, when all the aboriginal people turned away from Tempe Downs, Betty moved to Jay Creek Outstation, where she met her partner. Betty's father was a member of the Conway family of Kings Creek aka Watarrka, and she has a deep knowledge about and deeper affection for this country, which she visits as often as she can.

Betty personally holds holds carpet snake Tjukurpa, but knows all the Dreamings that reside in, or travel through, her country. She has several adult children, living all over, from Sydney to Port Augusta, and in Alice Springs, and has many grandchildren she loves very dearly. Since moving to Alice Springs in 1980, Betty has been a strong contributor to various programs at Tangentyere Council including the Noght and Youths Patrols where she worked each night before coming in to paint all day, and she has sat on the Council Executive, and is an active member of her Town Camp Housing Association.



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Betty speaks Luritja, Pitjantjatjara and Yankumyatjara as well as other south and south western desert languages, and is eager to translate for those who do not speak English fluently.

Elected to the Executive of Desart Inc in 2014, Betty also found herself a Telstra NATSIAA Finalist in 2015, much to her great pleasure.

Painting is a recreational activity for Betty, who never sits down without work. Taught by fellow Tangentyere Artist and family member, the late K Collins, Betty experiments freely with narrative, colour, style and technique. Refined in appearance, Betty's painting are distinguished by a delicate, layered technique and lively colour palette. painting both abstract and figurative works.

Betty paints people, places, events and ancestral beings close to her heart. Her artworks details the important role of senior women in teaching, educating and sharing culture through story telling - many of her paintings can be read as though they are the illustrations of her 'talking stories' to her audience - and she has that particular ability to touch her audiences with her wit and charm.

## Group Exhibitions

- 2024 Town Camp, Bush Camp – Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2020 Ration Days, Town Camp Now, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2019 Tarnanthi, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
- 2019. Lookiing for home (Para), Merrick’s House Art, Merricks, VIC
- 2019. Desert Mob, Araluen Cultural Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2019. Tangentyere & Yarrenyty Arltere Artits, 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 Tangentyere Artist Christmas Show, Hidden Valley, Yarrenyty Arltere and Tangentyere Artist, Tangentyere Artist Gallery, Alice Springs NT
- 2018 Tjina Mob: Next Door, Tangentyere ArtistGallery
- 2018 Desert Mob, Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs NT
- 2018 A Dream of Home, Satellite Exhibition curated by Terazita Turner-Young, Tangentyere Artist Gallery, Alice Springs NT
- 2017 Mparntwe & Ntaria Itweke-Itwe Mob (Alice Springs & Hermannsburg Neighbours) Tangentyere Artist Gallery Alice Springs NT
- 2016 Tjungu Festival, Aboriginal Art Marketplace, Yulara NT
- 2015 Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, Art Gallery South Australia Adelaide, SA
- 2015 Selfies 2- Town Campers, Tangentyere Artist Gallery, Alice Springs NT
- 2015 Desert mob - 25 year Commemorative Exhibition, Araluen Cultural



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- Precinct, Alice Springs NT
- 2015 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin NT
- 2015 Desert Dreaming featuring Artworks from 6 Art Centres from Central Australia, Art Image Gallery, Norwood SA
- 2014 Selfies: Representation of Self by Town Camp Artist, Tangentyere Artist Gallery, Alice Springs NT
- 2014 8th Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin
- 2014 New Works: Salon Show, Tangentyere Artist Group Show
- 2014 Tangentyere Artist-A Survey, Tangentyere Artist Gallery, Alice Springs NT
- 2013 2012 Rights on Show Award-Darwin Community Legal Service Annual Human Rights Art Awards, Supreme Court Foyer, Darwin NT
- 2013 New Works by Tangentyere Artist, Tangentyere Artist Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2013 Family Trees-Mbantua Festival Exhibition, curated by Hetti Perkins, Desert Art Centre, Alice Springs Telegraph Station, Taz
- 2013 Open Day of New Art Centre, Tangentyere Artist Gallery, Alice Springs NT
- 2013 Tangentyere Artist, Central Craft Alice Springs, NT
- 2013 Our Way- Group show with Yarrenyty Arltere artist, Raft Art Space, Alice Springs NT
- 2013 Seoul Open Arts Fair, Desert Art Centres Seoul, South Korea
- 2012 Darwin Festival Lighthouse, Alice Desert Festival HUB Space, Alice Springs, NT
- 2012 Desert Mob Exhibition, Araluen Cultural Centre Alice Springs, NT
- 2012 Winner Betty Conway in conjunction with Molly Napurulla Martin, Batchelor Institute and Jen Standish-White Alice Festival Wearable Arts Awards
- 2012 Araluen Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2012 Inaugural Art Centre Open Day, Araluen Desert Mob Joint Marketing. Presented at Art Centre 4 Elder Street, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Open Day
- 2012 4 Elder Street, Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Open Day
- 2012 Araluen Cultural Centre Alice Springs NT Alice Springs Beanie Festival
- 2012 Human Rights Film Festival Olive Pink Botanic Gardens Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Exhibition
- 2011 Festival Park Darwin Harry Chan Avenue Darwin NT The Lighthouse Murals Darwin Festival
- 2011 Japingka Indigenous Fine Art Gallery Fremantle WA Our homes: Town Camp & Beyond
- 2011 Exhibition Building Melbourne VIC Melbourne Affordable Art Fair
- 2011 Japingka Indigenous Fine Art Gallery Fremantle WA Our homes: Town Camp & Beyond
- 2011 Tali Art Gallery Alice Springs Tangentyere Artists and Yarrenyty Arltere Artists



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- 2011 IAD Press Alice Springs NT Sharing our Stories – Anwerne-kenhe ayeye: indigenous Literacy Day Festival
- 2011 Festival Park Darwin Harry Chan Avenue Darwin NT The Lighthouse Murals Darwin Festival
- 2010 ReDot Fine Art Gallery Singapore Urban Aboriginal Art - A Survey
- 2009 Japingka Indigenous Fine Art Gallery Fremantle WA Anwernekenhe Ayeye
- 2008 Putipula Gallery Noosa Heads QLD Darlings of the Desert
- 2006 Araluen Art and Cultural Centre Alice Springs NT Tangentyere Artists Inaugural Town Camps Exhibition

## **Collections**

Araluen Art and Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs, NT  
CAYLUS Murals, Commissions Mural, Central Australian Youth Link Up Services, 2012  
Darwin Festival Lighthouse Murals Commission, 2011  
Tangentyere Council Patrols Mural Commission, with Louise Daniels, 2013  
Baker IDI Collection, Alice Springs, 2010

## **Bibliography**

- 2015 Byrne, Joanna, Sophie Wallace, and Tangentyere Artists, Making Place Tangentyere Artists and Yarrenyty Arltere 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.
- 2016 Finnane, Kieran, 'From ceremony to selfies', Art Monthly Australasia, Issue 287, March 2016, p:68-70.
- 2018 Art Gallery of South Australia, Tarnanthi Art Fair 2018, Published on 15 Oct 2018

## **Awards:**

- 2015 Finalist - Telstra NATSIAA - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, MAGNT Darwin
- 2013 Rights on Show Award - Darwin Community Legal Service Annual Human Rights Art Awards, CHAN Contemporary Art Space, Darwin NT
- 2012 Alice Desert Festival Wearable Arts Awards in conjunction with Jen Standish-White, Molly Napurulla Martin, and the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education