



Short St. Gallery

Joanne Napangardi Wheeler

Born 1969 - 2023
Language Group Pitjantjatjara
Region Western / Central Desert



Biography

Joanne Wheeler is great grand-daughter to Albert Namitjira through her mother Betty Wheeler. Betty Wheeler was raised up by Albert Namatjira after the death of her parents. Joanne's father, Marcus Wheeler is a Lutheran minister of renown.

The Wheeler family are all talented artists. Joanne was born in Hermannsburg, Ntaria, where her parents moved before she was born. She had two younger sisters, through one is deceased. Joanne's grandfather was buried at Hermannsburg in 1980. She is singled and without children herself. Her father's family are Wheelers from Docker River. Joanne is a West Arrente speaking woman, who identifies with the West MacDonal Range Country of her mother's family, and Kaltukatjara (Docker River).

She also retains strong links to Anmatyerr and Luritja Country and family. She is a young cousin of fellow Tangentyere Artist Grace Robinya and loves to paint bush tucker and small game like goanna, perentie and snakes. She carves and hotwires punu, and makes seed jewellery as well, all taught to her by her now deceased aunt, Rhona Wheeler. Joanne painted from about 1990 for the Hermannsburg Tea Room before joining Tangentyere Artists.

Joanne has great style and energy and her audience responds immediately to this aspect of her work. Painting figurative and non-figurative works she paints Tjukurpa and personal history narratives in a way that always captures the imagination of her audience.

Group Exhibitions

2022	Town Camp Stories – Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2021	We Belong To This Country, We Look After This Country – Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2020	All the rain falling, all the water flowing, Tangentyere Artists Exhibition, NT
2020	Flying Colours, Talapi Art, Alice Springs, NT
2020	Ration Days, Town Camp Now, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2019	Tamanthi, 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



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- 2019 Tangentyere & Yarrenyty Artere 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 Artsit Christmas Show, Hidden Valley, Yarrenyty Artere and Tangentyere Artist, Tangentyere Artist Gallery, Alice Springs NT
2017 Tangentyere Artist Christmas Exhibition, Tangentyere Artist Gallery, Alice Springs NT
2017 Tangentyere Artist Christmas Exhibition, Tangentyere Artist Gallery, Alice Springs NT
2017 NESAC Conference, Double Tree Hilton, Alice Springs NT
2016 Our Selves, Our Stories - Town Camp Artist, Group Show, Tangentyere Artist Gallery, Alice Springs NT
2015 Making Place - Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, Art Gallery South Australia, SA
2015 Selfies 2 - Town Campers, Tangentyere Artist Gallery, Alice Springs NT
2015 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Convention Centre, Darwin NT
2014 Time and Place 2, Bright Gallery, VIC
2014 Selfies: Representation of Self by Town Camp Artist, Tangentyere Artist Gallery, Alice Springs NT
2014 New Works: Salon Show, Tangentyere Artist Show, Alice Springs NT
2013 Tangentyere Artist Open Day of New Art Centre, Tangentyere Artist Gallery, Alice Springs, NT

Awards

- 2020 Shortlisted - NATSIAA, MAGNT, Darwin, NT
2007 Advocate Art Award, Alice Springs, NT

Collections

Tony Albert Collection

Bibliography

- 2015 Byrne, Joanna, Sophie Wallace, and Tangentyere Artist, Making PLace T Tangentyere Artist and Yarrenyty Artere Artist, 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 Australia, Issue 287, March 2016, p.68-70