



Short St. Gallery



Sylvia Kanytjupai Ken

Born 1965
Language Pitjantjatjara
Region Alice Springs, NT

Sylvia Ken is from Amata community on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in South Australia. She was born in 1965 and has been painting since 1999. Sylvia paints the Seven Sisters story, an important dreaming story of the region. Her family are traditional owners for significant sites where the Seven Sisters story takes place. Sylvia paints this story, the landscape where it takes place in as well as the characters in the story.

Sylvia's work has been acquired by institutions and major collections in Australia and internationally. She has been a multiple finalist at the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards and the finalist and overall winner at the Wynne Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in 2019.

Solo Exhibitions

2023 Jan Murphy Gallery - Kungkarangkalpa: Seven Sisters
2016 Short Street Gallery, Broome - Seven Sisters by Sylvia Kanytjupai Ken

Group Exhibitions

2025 Aboriginal and Pacific Gallery, Sydney - Women of Amata
2024 Olsen Gallery, Sydney - Minyma Kungkarapa
2022 Aboriginal & Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney - Ngayuku ngura - My Country
2021 Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney - Nganampa Tjukurpa Kunpu: Our Strong Stories



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2021	Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane - Seven Sisters: Kungkarangkalpa
2020	Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rennes, France - Kulata Tjuta
2020	Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney - Tjala Arts Tjukurpa nganampa kunpu kanyintjaku: Stories that keep culture strong
2020	Olsen Gallery, Sydney - NGANAMPA TJUKURPA PULKATJARA-Stories From Our Land
2020	Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane - Sylvia Ken, Tjungkara Ken & The Ken Sisters Collaborative- Seven Sisters Paintings
2019	Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane - Seven Sisters
2019	Aboriginal and Pacific Art - Nganampa Waltja Tjurkpa – Our Family Tjukurpa
2019	Art Gallery of New South Wales - Wynne Prize
2019	Olsen Gruin Gallery, New York - APY LANDS
2019	Outstation Gallery, Darwin - Stories from our Spirit
2018	Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin - 35th Telstra National Indigenous Art Award Finalist
2018	Jan Murphy Gallery - Brisbane - Seven Sisters Exhibition Sylvia Kanytjupai Ken
2018	Art Gallery of New South Wales - The Wynne Prize
2018	ARTKELCH @ Museum Fünf Kontinente, München, Germany - Don't forget to sing!
2017	Art Gallery of South Australia - TARNANTHI FESTIVAL - Art Gallery of South Australia Indigenous Art Salon
2017	Outstation Gallery - Tjala Tjukurpa
2017	ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany - Standpunkte! Neue Werke von Tjala Arts (Viewpoints! New Work from Tjala Arts)
2017	ARTKELCH @ Teppichhaus Jordan, Waldshut-Tiengen, Germany - Farben der Wüste (Colours of the Desert)
2017	ARTKELCH Collectors Lounge @ kptec, Schorndorf, Germany - Farbe bekennen – Neue Werke aus Amata (Show Your Colours - New Work Out of Amata)
2016	Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels - Gems from the desert by Aboriginal Signature Estrangin gallery
2016	Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Art Centre, Sydney - Nganampa Kilipil: Our Stars
2016	Charles Darwin University, in association with Darwin Festival and Paul Johnstone Gallery - Salon De Refuses 2017
2016	Charles Darwin University, in association with Darwin Festival and Paul Johnstone Gallery - Salon De Refuses 2016
2015	Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels - Résonance millénaire by Aboriginal Signature Estrangin gallery
2015	Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney - Tjintu wiru - beautiful day
2015	Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels - Paysages incarnés by Aboriginal Signature Estrangin gallery



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- 2015 Short Street Gallery, Broome - Kwarila Tjunguringayi - All together now
- 2015 Outstation Gallery, Darwin - Tjukurpa, Ngura, Waltja - Culture, Country, Family
- 2015 Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery - Eurantica Art Fair by Aboriginal Signature Estrangin gallery
- 2015 Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels - Ligne de vie nomade at Aboriginal Signature Estrangin gallery
- 2014 Short Street Gallery Broome - In memory of Kunmanara Williamson: These are the stories we teach our children
- 2014 Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs - Desert Mob
- 2014 Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory - 31st Telstra National Indigenous Art Award Finalist
- 2014 Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney - Paintings from the Heart of Amata Country
- 2014 Out Station Gallery Darwin - Tjala-nga Tjara - It's all about Tjala
- 2014 Red Dot Gallery Singapore - Tjintu kuwaritja wiru mulapa
- 2013 Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory - 30th Telstra National Indigenous Art Award Finalist
- 2013 Darwin Festival - Salon des Refuses 2013
- 2013 Aboriginal & Pacific Art - Sydney – Together as One
- 2013 Tjukurpa nganampa kunpu kanyintjaku: Stories that keep culture strong
- 2013 Marshall Arts Gallery Adelaide - Manta wirunya mulapa. This beautiful Earth.
- 2013 ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany - Revival in Small – Western APY Lands
- 2013 ARTKELCH Collectors Lounge @ kptec, Schorndorf, Germany - A Lesson in Pitjantjatjara
- 2012 ARTKELCH @ art Karlsruhe 2012, Karlsruhe, Germany - art Karlsruhe 2012
- 2012 Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney - Tjunga Kutju-tu- Together as One
- 2012 Outstation Gallery, Darwin - Rising Stars
- 2012 aft Artspace, Alice Springs - Punu-nguru- From the Trees
- 2012 Short Street Gallery Broome - APY All Stars
- 2011 ARTKELCH @ Kunstwerk, Eberdingen-Nussdorf, @ ARTKELCH, Freiburg, @ Emmanuel Walderdorff Galerie, Köln, @ Grassi Museum, Leipzig, Germany - PRO COMMUNITY – Western APY Lands, Touring exhibition
- 2011 Marshall Arts, Adelaide - Tjala Arts Ala Patintjaku – Tjala Arts Closing the Gap
- 2011 Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne - Tjala & Kaltjiti
- 2011 Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney - Ngura wiru mulapa- Beautiful Country I hold my Fathers Story I hold my Mothers Story Raft Artspace Alice Springs - Ngayulu Witini Ngayuku Mamaku Tjukurpa Ngayulu Witini Ngunytjuku Tjukurpa
- 2011 Behind Our Canvas, Outstation Gallery, Darwin - Nganampa Kampatjanka Ungutja
- 2011 Araluen, Alice Springs - Desert Mob



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- 2010 Outstation Gallery, Darwin - Tjukurpa Kunpu Nganana Kanyini Pulka- Our Stories, We Hold Strong
- 2010 Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne - Tjala Women
- 2010 Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney - Nganampa tjukurpa Kunpu- Our Strong Stories
- 2010 Marshall Arts, Adelaide - APY NPY Group Exhibition
- 2010 Raft Artspace, Alice Springs - APY & NPY Survey Exhibition
- 2009 Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi - Women of Tjala Arts
- 2009 Adeliade Festival Centre - Our Mob
- 2009 Araluen, Alice Springs - Desert Mob
- 2009 Adelaide Festival Centre - Anangu Backyard
- 2009 Outstation, Darwin - Alwarawara - Side By Side
- 2007 Harrison Galleries, Sydney - Colours from our country
- 2006 Stephanie Burns Fine Art, Canberra - Warka nganampa munuru: Our work is many and varied
- 2005 Stephanie Burns Fine Art, Canberra - Amata Community: Rock Holes and other Stories
- 2004 Works by Ananguku Arts and Crafts artists - Ngura-Tjanpi - Desert Spinifex Country
- 2004 Australian Print Workshop - Nganana worka wiru palyalpai - Our best work
- 2004 Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs - Desert Mob
- 2004 Australia's Outback Gallery, Sydney - Bush Christmas
- 2002 Adelaide Fringe - The Anangu Pitjantjatjara Silks
- 2002 Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs Mina Wala- fresh, like water from a spring,
- 2002 Araluen Galleries, Alice Sprin - Mina Wala - fresh, like water from a spring
- 2002 Adelaide Fringe, Synagogue Place, Adelaide - Desert Visions – Works of Minymaku Arts
- 2000 Tandanya, Adelaide - Irititja Munu Kuwaritja Tjukurpa - Stories from the past and present

Collections

ART BANK ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
LARGERBERG SWIFT COLLECTION
MAROONDAH ART GALLERY
MARSHALL COLLECTION
NATIONAL GALLERY VICTORIA
QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY
GALLERY OF MODERN ART
RICHARD AND HARRIETT ENGLAND COLLECTION
WAYNE AND VICKY MOGEOUGH COLLECTION



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Bibliography

- 2018 ARTKELCH, Robyn Kelch: Don't forget to sing!, Exhibition catalogue, Freiburg, Germany, 2018
- 2017 ARTKELCH, Robyn Kelch: Tjala Arts, Exhibition catalogue, Freiburg, Germany, 2017
- 2015 Ken Family work on show at OutStation Gallery, The Australian - Nicholas Rothwell - 22 May
- 2014 It looks so different from way up there, The Australian - Nicholas Rothwell - 6 June
- 2011 ARTKELCH, Robyn Kelch: Western APY Lands, Exhibition catalogue Pro Community 2011, Freiburg, Germany, 2011
- 2010 Emerging Artist: Sylvia Kantjupai Ken, The Adelaide Review, Dec

Awards

- 2021 Wynne Prize Finalist
- 2019 Wynne Prize Winner
- 2018 Wynne Prize Finalist
- 2018 Telstra Prize Finalist
- 2014 Telstra Prize Finalist
- 2013 Telstra Prize Finalist