



Short St. Gallery

Marlene Rubuntja

Born 1960
Language Group Arrernte & Western Arrarnta
Community Yarrenyty Arltere Town Camp
(Larapinta Valley Town Camp)
Region Mparntwe (Alice Springs)



Biography

Marlene was born in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) in 1960 and grew up at Amoonguna community, east of Alice Springs where she went to school. Marlene is the daughter of Wenton Rubuntja the well-known painter and activist. It was her father who fought for the rights of people to settle Town Camps in Alice Springs. In the 1970's her family, the Rubuntja's, along with the Ebatarinja's and the Lynche's were the original families to settle Yarrenyty Arltere Town Camp. Marlene has been here ever since, and she is proud to call this place home. She is sister to the important watercolour artist Mervyn Rubuntja.

Marlene learnt to sew at Yirara College, Alice Springs, however she only began making soft sculptures at Yarrenyty Arltere in 2009. She says she draws inspiration for her soft sculptures and her works on paper from what she sees around her in her daily life at Yarrenyty Arltere Town Camp; "some things are good for people and other things make people really mad". She also draws inspiration from her father's country and from her husband's country at Wave Hill. Marlene is interested in telling proudly the stories of her people; her art is helping her to do this.

Marlene is a proud spokeswoman for the Art Centre and is happy to tell people how important it is in her life in helping her stay strong and healthy. Marlene has worked on all the films made through the Yarrenyty Arltere Art Centre, either as a writer, artist, cultural advisor and or on screen. In 2016 and 2019 Marlene officially opened the Desert Mob Exhibition in Alice Springs and in 2017 and 2020 she was one of three judges for the Portrait of a Senior Territorian Art Award. In 2016 Marlene was the overall winner for the inaugural Vincent Lingiari Art Award Alice Springs with her self-portrait titled, My Future is in my Hands. Now Marlene is the well deserving winner of the Lofty Awards, which celebrates an artist who has shown dedication and passion for maintaining a high standard of arts practice that builds the cultural voice



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of Central Australia. Marlene is also the president of the Yarrenyty Arltere Housing Association and sits on the Board of Directors for Tangentyere Council.

Solo Exhibitions

2021 Looking Back, Moving Forward – Watch This Space, Alice Springs

Group Exhibitions

- 2023 Portrait23 - National Portrait Gallery, Canberra, ACT
2023 Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
2022 Edwina Corlette – Sydney Contemporary, Carriageworks, Sydney, NSW
2022 Desert Mob – Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs NT
2022 We are from Mparntwe, our ideas are from here and so is our art – Hugo Michelle Gallery, Adelaide, SA.
2022 Werte Canberra! – Beaver Galleries, Canberra, ACT
2022 Celebrate with Us How Much We Love to Make Art! Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW
2022 4th National Indigenous Art Triennial: Ceremony – National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT
2022 Town Camp Stories – Short Street Gallery, Broome
2021 Nurna Yaarna Itjerrama. Nurna Kutatha Mpaarama! ('We can't rest. We always/continue to make!) – Jam Factory as part of Tarnanthi 2021, Adelaide
2021 Vincent Lingiari Award – Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs
2021 Desert Mob – Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
2021 Waltja Tjutja: Family – Salon Arts Project, Darwin
2021 Looking back, Looking Forward: 21 Years of the Yarrenyty Arltere Learning Centre – Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
2021 Badu Gili: Wonder Woman animated soft sculpture on the sails of the Sydney Opera House in collaborating with Art Gallery NSW and Sydney Opera House
2020 NAIDOC Exhibition – Tangentyere Artists Gallery Alice Springs
2020 Joy – Art Gallery NSW, Sydney
2020 Our Art Makes Us Happy (we hope it makes you happy too!) – Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
2020 Art of Women – Edwina Corlette Gallery, Brisbane
2020 Salon Des Refuse – Darwin
2020 Trudy said Mwerre! – Outstaion Gallery, Darwin
2020 SUMMER SALON – Artitja Fine Art Gallery, South Fremantle
2019 Tangentyere Christmas Show



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- 2019 Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Art – Art
Gallery of South Australia
- 2019 Looking for Pmara (Home) – Merricks General Store Gallery
- 2019 Desert Mob Exhibition – Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
- 2019 From Country to Couture Fashion Show – Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair,
Darwin
- 2019 Group Show – Edwina Corlette Gallery, Brisbane
- 2019 Arrentye Mamu-Monsters Monsters – Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice
Springs
- 2019 We Are Always Making Something From What We Have – Salon Arts
Projects, Darwin
- 2019 Short Street Exhibition – Short Street Gallery, Broome
- 2018 Tjina Mob – Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2018 Desert Mob – Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
- 2018 Edwina Corlette Sydney Contemporary Art Fair
- 2018 Central Australia Aboriginal Textiles Exhibition – Tangentyere Artists
Gallery
- 2018 Around and Within – Macquarie Group Collection Emerging Curator
Exhibition, Sydney
- 2018 We use our Kapurta (heads) for looking after things – Hugo Michelle
Gallery Adelaide
- 2018 Sydney Biennale Exhibition – Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
- 2018 Ancient Stories New Narratives: 21st Century Aboriginal Women’s Art
from the Desert: New works from the Sims Dickson Collection
- 2018 Yarrenyty Arltere Artists Group Exhibition – Edwina Corlette Gallery,
Brisbane
- 2018 Works On Paper – Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2018 Women Telling Stories Arelhe Altyerre Ileme – Short Street Gallery,
Broome
- 2018 Sydney Biennale – Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 2017 Artbank Neon Light Sculpture commission, Sydney
- 2017 The Worlds We Stitch Together – Wynscreen moving picture project
Wynyard Station Sydney: in collaboration with Cultural Capital, NSW
Transport and Leonardo Ortega
- 2017 National Gallery of Victoria Design Triennial: in collaboration with
Estudio Campana, Elbowworkshp and NGV
- 2017 Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Art – Art Gallery of South Australia
- 2017 Desert Mob – Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
- 2017 Arrweketye Mape Awethe Akine (Women Back Together Again) –
Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs



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- 2017 Carved, Sewn and Thrown. Objectives from Remote Australia – Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree
- 2017 Together Our Stories Are Stronger – Merrick's General Store, Victoria
- 2017 Creature Collection – Hugo Mitchell Gallery, Adelaide
- 2017 Where Worlds Come Together – Nomad Gallery, Darwin
- 2016 Etchings – Rebecca Hossack, New York
- 2016 Deck Your Walls Christmas Show – Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2016 Drawing from the Inside – Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
- 2016 Desert Mob – Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
- 2016 Salon Des Refuses Darwin
- 2016 Arrweketye Mob: Women Mob – Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2016 Avatar RAFT Artspace Alice Springs
- 2016 Beauty and the Beasts – Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2016 From our heads and our hands: stories told with colour – Red Dot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
- 2016 Outsider Art Fair – Rebecca Hossack Art Gallery, New York
- 2015 TARNANTHI | Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art – Art Gallery of South Australia
- 2015 Selfies Exhibition – Tangentyere Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2015 Desert Mob – Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
- 2015 Salon Des Refuses – Darwin
- 2015 Beautiful Good Days Making Art – Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
- 2015 We are in Wonder LAND: New experimental art from Central Australia – Gallery UNSW
- 2015 Tjulpu – Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2014 Figuratively speaking: stories from Town Camp artists – Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
- 2014 We just keep on travelling further – Red Dot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
- 2014 Selfies Exhibition – Tangentyere Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2014 Desert Mob – Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
- 2014 This Belongs To Us, But We Did It for You – Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
- 2014 Group Show – Aritija Fine Art, Fremantle
- 2013 Desert Mob – Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
- 2013 With Our Healing Hands – Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
- 2013 String Theory: Focus on Contemporary Australian Art – Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 2013 Our Way, Their Way – RAFT Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2013 Good People, Strong People, Made This Art – Gallery Nomad, Darwin
- 2012 Small Works – Outstation Gallery, Darwin



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- 2012 With Our Hands We Tell Our Stories Our Way – Aboriginal and Pacific Art Sydney
- 2012 Desert Mob – Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
- 2012 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Darwin
- 2012 Yarrenyty Arltere Open Night – Yarrenyty Arltere Learning Centre
- 2012 A Fine Line – Chan Contemporary Art Space, Darwin
- 2012 Bush Animals – Gallery Nomad, Canberra
- 2012 Owls – Tali Gallery, Sydney
- 2012 Creatures – Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
- 2012 Listen: Tangentyere and Yarrenyty Arltere Stories – Merenda Gallery, Perth
- 2012 Healing Larapinta – Mossenson Gallery, Perth
- 2011 Soft Sculptures! – Tali Gallery, Sydney
- 2011 Desert Mob – Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
- 2011 Soft Sculptures – Chapman Gallery, Canberra
- 2011 Outback Prints – Hand Mark Gallery, Hobart
- 2011 Yarrenyty Arltere Birds – Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
- 2011 Faces of Larapinta – Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
- 2011 Melbourne Affordable Art Fair – Tapir Studio, Hobart
- 2011 Many Stories to Tell – Gallery Nomad Darwin and Canberra
- 2010 Art from the Heart of Town Camps – Outstation Gallery, Darwin
- 2010 Desert Mob Exhibition – Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
- 2010 Yarrenyty Arltere Open Night – Alice Springs
- 2009 Yarrenyty Arltere Open Night – Alice Spring

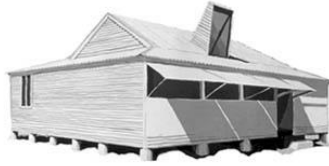
Public Collections

- 2022 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT
- 2019 Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 2019 University of Newcastle Collection
- 2016 Art Gallery of South Australia
- 2015 Art Gallery of New South Wales
- 2015 Araluen Arts Centre
- 2014 National Gallery of Victoria
- 2014 Araluen Arts Centre
- 2013 Maitland Regional Gallery
- 2012 Araluen Arts Centre

Private Collections

- 2018 Macquarie Group Collection

Awards



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2021	Finalist – Vincent Lingiari Award
2021	Finalist – National Indigenous Fashion Awards – Special Recognition for Yarrenyty Arlttere Artists
2020	Winner – Lofty Art Awards, Alice Springs
2019	Finalist – Vincent Lingiari Art Award
2019	Finalist – Telstra NATSIAA, MAGNT Darwin
2017	Finalist – Telstra NATSIAA, MAGNT Darwin
2016	Overall Winner - Vincent Lingiari Award, Alice Springs
2011	Final Selection – Togart Contemporary Art Award, Darwin

Film Work

2020	Old Laddie
2020	On The Bus
2018	Hunting Story
2018	The Meeting Place
2017	Petrol Been Wasting All Our Lives
2017	The Worlds We Stich Together
2014	Little Dingi
2012	Anntenette and Tom