



# Short St. Gallery

## Fred Grant

**Born** 1943  
**Language** Pitjantjatjara  
**Region** Tjuntjuntjara, WA



## Biography

Fred Grant was born in north eastern Spinifex at Ukatjatjara. Like his brother, Ned Grant, Fred went in to Cundeelee Mission a segregated bush boy (nyingka) whose initiation into Men's Law had been delayed because of the enduring drought at the time and the disturbance of traditional life by the Maralinga atomic testing and the rocket testing out of Woomera. Fred subsequently went 'through' the Law with older brother and ngalungku (contemporary initiate), Ned, in the ranges north of Laverton. Fred remained single in his younger years before marrying his life partner, Carlene West, from Tjitjiti.

As well as being one of the main ceremonial leaders for the Tjintu (sun side), Fred is a renowned singer. In 2003/4 Fred and ten other Spinifex singers and actors performed in the play "The Career Highlights of the Mamu" (spirit-monster). "Mamu" was a musical drama produced and directed by Black Swan Theatre in Perth portraying the history of the Spinifex people from the time of the Maralinga Tests to the return to country. The company was invited to Hamburg, Germany, in August 2003 to perform at the Hamburg Summer Festival of Arts.

With his extraordinary knowledge of Spinifex Tjukurpa and its myriad of inherent song lines Freds works are held in high esteem. They hang in prestigious collections nationally and internationally.

## Group Exhibitions

- 2022 Short Street Gallery Broome
- 2022 Aluni - Resonance - Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2021 Spinifex Wati Tjuta - Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney
- 2021 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2021 38th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
- 2020 Spinifex Artists - On Our Country - Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2019 Wati: Men from Spinifex - Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney, NSW
- 2019 36th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT



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- 2019 Explosion, Aboriginal Signature - Estrangin Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2018 The Art of Fred and Ned Grant - Raft Art Space, Alice Springs. N.T
- 2018 Eurantica Art Fair - Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2017 Wuste - Meer - Schpfermythen ArtKelch Gallery presented at The Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum Cologne, Germany
- 2017 Spinifex Ascendent - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2017 Geisterstunde bei - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
- 2017 Farben der Wüste - ARTKELCH at Teppichhaus Jordan, Waldshut-Tiengen, Germany
- 2016 Pila Nguratja - In Spinifex Country - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2016 Parcours des Mondes art fair - Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Paris, France
- 2016 Rawa Nyinanyi- Unbroken - Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2016 Exposition Spinifex Arts Project - Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Fine Art, Belgium
- 2016 Community - Spinifex Art project - Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
- 2016 Tjungutja – Art of the Spinifex Collaborative - Redot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
- 2016 Purungu und Narrupa Sammlung - P. & A. Klein and ArtKelch, Kunstwerk, Germany
- 2015 Spinifex Arts Project 2015 - Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney, NSW
- 2015 Tamaranthi - Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art - Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
- 2015 Wo das Stachelkopfg gras wächst - ArtKelch, Freiberg, Germany
- 2015 Kulunypa- selected small works from the Spinifex Arts Project - Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2014 Spinifex Artists - Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2014 Tjuntjuntjara - recent works from Spinifex Country - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2014 Spinifex Tjukurpa - ReDot Gallery, Singapore.
- 2014 Spinifex Arts Project - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2014 Pila - Spinifex Land - Outstation Gallery, Parap, Darwin, NT
- 2014 DesertMob Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2013 Spinifex Arts Project - ARTKELCH at art Karlsruhe 2013, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2013 The Wild Ones (Mens Collaborative) - Raft Artplace, Alice Springs, NT
- 2013 Spinifex Arts Project - ArtKelch, Freiburg, Munich, Hamburg, Bodensee, Lake Constance, Germany
- 2013 Kuwaritja - New Works of the Spinifex People - Outstation Gallery,



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- Darwin, NT
- 2013 DesertMob - Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
- 2013 30th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Art Award (Mens Collaborative) - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
- 2012 Tupun Nguranguru – People of the Sandhill Country - 45 Downstairs Gallery, Vivien Anderson, Melbourne, VIC
- 2012 Spinifex - People of the Sun and Shadow John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Perth, WA
- 2011 Spinifex Artists, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2011 Living Water- Contemporary Art of the Far Western Desert - National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC.
- 2010 Spinifex Arts Project 2010 - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2010 Spinifex Artists - Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2010 Desert Mob - Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs, NT
- 2009 Tracking the Wati Kutjara - Coo-ee Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2009 Spinifex Artists - Ab-Original Gallery, Austria
- 2009 Spinifex Artists 2009 Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2009 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2008 Spinifex Artists Recent Work - Short St Gallery, Broome, W.A.
- 2008 Kapi Ninti: Knowing Water Knowing Country - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2008 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2007 Ten Years On - Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2007 Seattle Arts Museum, Seattle
- 2007 New Spinifex Works - Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2007 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2007 Best of the Best - Framed Gallery Darwin, NT
- 2006 Spinifex - New Works - Marshall Arts, Adelaide, SA
- 2006 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2006 Art of the Spinifex People Japingka Gallery, Perth, WA
- 2005 Spinifex Mob - Coo-ee Arts, Sydney, NSW
- 2005 Spinifex Artists - Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, England
- 2005 Law and Land Aboriginal Art Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- 2005 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2004 Spinifex Arts Project - Harbour House Gallery, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2004 Colour Power - Aboriginal Art post 1984 - National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
- 2003 Spinifex Paintings - Raintree Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2003 Spinifex Arts Project - Span Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 2002 Putitja Nguru - Art of the Spinifex People - Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2002 Native Title Business - Contemporary Indigenous Art, Australian National Tour



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2001	Spiral Arm Gallery, Canberra, ACT
2001	Pila Nguru - Art and Song of the Spinifex People - Western Australian Museum, Perth, WA and National Tour
2001	Flinders Arts Museum, Adelaide, SA
2001	Broken Hill City Regional Art Gallery, Broken Hill, NSW
2001	All About Art Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2000	Pila Nguru

## Awards

2019	Finalist 36th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museums and Art Galleries, Darwin, NT
2013	Finalist (Mens Collaborative) 30th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museums and Art Galleries, Darwin, NT

## Collections

ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA (MENS COLLABORATIVE)

HARRIETT & RICHARD ENGLAND COLLECTION

MUSEUM FÜNF KONTINENTE, MUNICH, GERMANY

NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA, ACT (MENS COLLABORATIVE)

QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY OF MODERN ART, BRISBANE, QLD.

SAMMLUNG PETER DÖHLE SCHIFFFAHRTS-KG, HAMBURG, GERMANY

SEATTLE ART MUSEUM, SEATTLE, USA. (MENS COLLABORATIVE)

THE ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, NSW

THE CORRIGAN COLLECTION, AUSTRALIA (MENS COLLABORATIVE)

THE LEPLEY COLLECTION, PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

W. & V. MCGEOCH COLLECTION, MELBOURNE, VIC.

## Bibliography



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- 2017 ARTKELCH, Robyn Kelch: Wüste – Meer – Schöpfermythen, Exhibition catalogue, Freiburg, Germany
- 2015 Greg, Castillo: Das Volk der Spinifex als Vertreter der Moderne des Kalten Krieges, in: Journal Fünf Kontinente. Forum für ethnologische Forschung, Band 16 / 2013/2014, p. 25, Munich, Germany
- 2015 Kelch, Robyn: Pro Community Spinifex Arts Project 2013 in Munich, in: Journal Fünf Kontinente. Forum für ethnologische Forschung, Band 16, 2013/2014, p. 45ff, Munich, Germany
- 2013 Butler, M. Dean, Bently. First Footprints Episode 2. The Great Drought; 30,000 To 15,000 Years Ago. Contact Films Pty Ltd. NSW, Australia
- 2013 ARTKELCH, Robyn Kelch: Spinifex Arts Project, Exhibition catalogue Pro Community 2013, Freiburg, Germany
- 2013 Rothwell, Nicolas. "Dilemma of difference in indigenous art awards", The Australian August 13, 2013
- 2012 Hackett, J. Forrest, S. Malcolm, C. Cane, S. Carty, J. Lane, C. Cruthers, J. Chadwick, R. Allerton, L. Spinifex: People of the Sun and Shadow (exh. cat) John Curtin Gallery, Perth, WA
- 2012 Rothwell, Nicolas. "Paintings of lifetimes in the desert" The Australian, August 6th 2012
- 2012 Jorgensen, D.J. 2012, No Place Without Other Places: Spinifex Arts Project at fifteen years, ARTLINK: Australian contemporary art quarterly, 32, 2, pp. 86-87
- 2012 Allerton, L., Rothwell, N. & McLean, I. 2012, Tupun Ngurunguru – People of the Sandhill Country: Spinifex Arts Project 15th Anniversary exhibition, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2010 Vivien Anderson Gallery 2010, Australian Contemporary Indigenous Art Now (exh. cat.), Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2008 McCulloch Childs, E. New Beginnings: Classic Paintings from the Corrigan Collection of 21st Century Aboriginal Art, McCulloch and McCulloch, Melbourne, VIC
- 2008 Vivien Anderson Gallery, 2008, Kapi Ninti – Knowing Water Knowing Country, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2008 Art Gallery of Western Australia, Western Australia Indigenous Art Awards 2008 Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, WA
- 2002 Cane, S. Pila Nguru: The Spinifex People, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, Fremantle, WA