

Short St. Gallery



Angelina Tjaruwa Woods

Born 1954
Language Group Pitjantjatjara
Region Ng Lands - Ngaanyatjarra

Biography

Tjaruwa was born in the Great Victoria Desert at Warutjara, the place of Minyma Tjilkamata - the Echidna Woman, south of the current community of Jamieson (Mantamaru). Except for possession of a few pieces of iron, fashioned into implements and tin bowls Tjaruwa lived traditionally until the winter of 1986 when her family group of seven was located in northern Spinifex by a group of Spinifex people making a sortie into country to re-visit important Men's sites after some 25 years of absence. Tjaruwa came in with a small son on her hip and camped with her family firstly at Yakatunya, 90 kilometres south of Tjuntjuntjara, joined the moving camp which accompanied the construction of a road, 300 kilometres through the length of the Spinifex Lands, before settling permanently at Tjuntjuntjara in 1989. Tjaruwa was adjudged to be about 32 years old in 1986 and was given the birth date 1/7/1954. At this point in time (2019), Tjaruwa's family remains the last Aboriginal group in the country to make first contact with contemporary Australia.

It is difficult to even imagine the changes Tjaruwa was to encounter living in her new world. She had acquired an extended network of kin to establish relationships with, the daily activity of hunting and gathering was essentially replaced by the community store and water was abundant. Tjaruwa's immediate priority was to care for her mother and uncle living in their new circumstances and it was not until her mother passed away that she took up an interest in painting. At first she tended to paint as she observed other women painting and then the accumulated experience of her other life and her mother's stories/designs poured out and Tjaruwa's unique Spinifex perspective was translated with spectacular style and technique on to canvas.

Tjaruwa was a leading Spinifex artist, who's works have featured in major awards and collections in Australia and abroad.

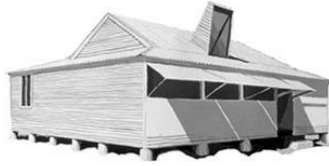
Tjaruwa passed away in 2019.



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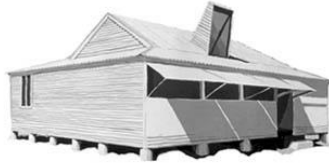
Group Exhibitions

- 2022 MINYMA, Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney, NSW
- 2020 Smart Art, ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
- 2020 Art Paris 2020, ARTKELCH at Art Paris 2020, Paris, France
- 2019 Kungakarungkalpa, Short St. Gallery, Broome, Western Australia
- 2019 Explosion, Aboriginal Signature Gallery, Brussels, Belgium.
- 2019 Womens Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne.
- 2018 Spinifex People Spinifex Land - A Collection of Fine Spinifex Indigenous Art, ReDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
- 2018 The Womens Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne. Victoria 2018
- Ngura Ninti - Knowing Country, Artkelch, Freiburg, Germany.
- 2018 Convoking the Genesis - Eurantica - Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery – Brussels
- 2017 Wuste - Meer - Schpfermythen ArtKelch Gallery presented at The Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum Cologne, Germany.
- 2017 Spinifex Arts 20th Anniversary, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle. WA.
- 2017 Gems from the remote Deserts , Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, at the Parcours des Mondes, Paris
- 2017 Spinifex Short St. Gallery, Broome, Western Australia
- 2016 Pila Nguratja - In Spinifex Country' Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2016 Rawa Nyinanyi- Unbroken. Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2016 Exposition Spinifex Arts Project, Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Fine Art, Belgium
- 2016 LORE The visual language of cultural Identity, Raft Artspace, Tasmania
- 2016 Tjungutja – Art of the Spinifex Collaborative, Redot Fine Art Gallery, , Singapore
- 2016 Purungu und Narrupa Sammlung, in association with P. & A. Klein and ArtKelch, Kunstwerk, Germany
- 2016 Spinifex Arts Project 2015. Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney, N.S.W
- 2015 Tarnanthi - Festival of Comtemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
- 2015 Wo das Stachelkopfgras wachst. ArtKelch, Freiberg, Germany
- 2015 Kulunypa- selected small works from the Spinifex Arts Project. Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2015 Indigenous Australia enduring civilisation, The British Museum, London
- 2014 Spinifex Artists, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle W.A
- 2014 Tjuntjuntjara Nguratja- Tjuntjuntjara is home Harvey Art Projects, Sun Valley, Idaho, USA
- 2014 Salon des Refuses, Outstation and Paul Johnstone Galleries. Stokes Hill Wharf, Darwin, NT. Womens Collaborative
- 2014 Pila- Spinifex Land Outstation Gallery, Parap, Darwin, NT
- 2014 31st Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Art Award MAAGNT, Darwin, NT
- 2014 Tjuntjuntjara - Recent works from Spinifex Country, Short St Gallery,



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- Broome
- 2014 'Spinifex Tjukurpa' ReDot Gallery, Singapore.
- 2014 'Spinifex Arts Project 2014', Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC.
- 2014 'Australian Contemporary Indigenous Art 111' Chiaroscuro Contemporary Art in association with Vivien Anderson Gallery, Santa Fe, USA
- 2013 'Kuwaritja - New Works of the Spinifex People' Outstation Gallery, Darwin
- 2013 'Salon des Refuses', Outstation and Paul Johnstone Galleries in the Old bank building Smith and Bennet st Darwin, Darwin, N.T. (Women's Collaborative).
- 2013 'DesertMob' Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, N.T.
- 2013 'The Wild Ones' Raft Artplace, Alice Springs, N.T.
- 2013 'Spinifex Arts Project' ArtKelch, Freiburg, Munich, Hamburg, Germany.
- 2012 Tupun Nguranguru – People of the Sandhill Country' 45 Downstairs Gallery, Vivien Anderson, Melbourne.
- 2012 Spinifex: People of the Sun and Shadow, John Curtin Gallery, Perth WA
- 2012 The Bright, The Bold & The Beautiful: A Vibrant and Colourful Celebration of Indigenous Australian Women, Cooee Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2011 Living Water, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne VIC
- 2011 The Women's Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2011 'Uwankara – Whole lot of Everything: Paintings from the APY/NPY Lands and Spinifex Country 2002-2011', Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC.
- 2011 Desert Mob, Araluen Galleries, NT
- 2011 'Spinifex Artists', Japingka Gallery, Fremantle WA
- 2010 Spinifex Arts Project 2010, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2010 'Desert Country', Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA. national tour.
- 2010 Australian Contemporary Indigenous Art Now, Chiaroscuro Gallery, Santa Fe USA in association with Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2010 Desert Mob, Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs NT
- 2010 Spinifex Artists Survey Show, Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2010 Spinifex Artists, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle WA
- 2009 Generation Next, Randall Lane Gallery, Perth WA
- 2009 Desert Mob, Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs NT
- 2009 Spinifex Artists 2009, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle WA
- 2009 Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards, AGWA Perth WA
- 2009 Walka Putitja, Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2009 Tracking the Wati Kutjara – Spinifex 2009, Cooee Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2008 New Works from the Spinifex Artists, Short St Gallery, Broome, W.A.
- 2008 Desert Mob, Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs NT
- 2008 Kapi Ninti-Knowing Water Knowing Country, Vivien Anderson Gallery,



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Melbourne

- 2007 Seattle Arts Museum, Seattle
- 2007 Ten Years On, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle WA
- 2007 Best of the Best, Framed Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2007 New Spinifex Works, Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2007 Desert Mob, Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs NT
- 2006 Art of the Spinifex People, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle WA
- 2006 Desert Mob, Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs NT
- 2006 Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2006 Marshall Arts, Adelaide SA
- 2005 Spinifex Mob, Coe-ee Arts, Sydney NSW
- 2005 Spinifex Artists, Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London
- 2005 'Law and Land' Aboriginal Art Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
- 2004 Colour Power - Aboriginal Art post 1984, NGV, Melbourne
- 2004 Spinifex Arts Project, Harbour House Gallery, Zurich
- 2003 Spinifex Arts Project 03, Span Galleries, Melbourne VIC
- 2003 Spinifex Arts Project 03, Raintree Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2002 'Native Title Business – Contemporary Indigenous Art', Australian national tour
- 2002 Putitja Nguru – Art of the Spinifex People, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle WA
- 2001 Flinders Arts Museum, Adelaide, S.A.
- 2001 Supreme Court of the Northern Territory, Darwin, N.T.
- 2001 Broken Hill City Regional Art Gallery, Broken Hill, N.S.W.
- 2001 'All About Art' Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Vic.
- 2001 Spiral Arm Gallery, Canberra. A.C.T.
- 2000 'Pila Nguru - Art and Song of the Spinifex People' Western Australian Museum, Perth, W.A and national tour

Collections

Art Gallery Of South Australia, Adelaide Sa (Women's Collaborative)
Museum Funf Kontinente, Munich, Germany
National Gallery Of Australia, Canberra
National Gallery Of Victoria, Melbourne Vic (Women's Collaborative)
Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra, Act (Womens Collaborative)
Richard And Harriet England Collection
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle Usa (Women's Collaborative)
The Berndt Collection, University Of Western Australia.
The British Museum, London, England.(Womens Collaborative)
The Corrigan Collection, Australia
The Lepley Collection, Perth, Western Australia.
The Sims Dickson Collection, NSW



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W. & V. McGeoch Collection, Melbourne, Vic.

Awards

- 2015 Finalist (Women's Collaborative) 32nd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, MAGNT
- 2014 Finalist 31st Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Art Award MAGNT
- 2009 Finalist (Women's Collaborative), Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA

Bibliography

- 2018 ARTKELCH, Robyn Kelch: Spinifex Arts Project, Exhibition Catalogue, Freiburg, Germany
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- 2015 Kelch, Robyn: Pro Community Spinifex Arts Project 2013 in Munich, in: Journal Funf Kontinente. Forum für ethnologische Forschung, Band 16, 2013/2014, p. 45ff, Munich, Germany
- 2015 Neil, Rosemary. 2015, British Museum indigenous exhibition earns royal approval, The Australian, May 2nd
- 2015 Nicholls, Christine. 2015, Indigenous Australia: enduring civilisation is a challenge to review, The Conversation, 27th April
- 2015 Edmons, Penny. 2015 Indigenous Australia exhibition at the British Museum is insider activism at its best, The Conversation, April 22nd
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- 2015 Dulaney, Michael. Spinifex artwork takes pride of place at British Museum, The Kalgoorlie Miner, May 8th
- 2015 Sculthorpe, Gaye. 2015, Bringing great Australian Indigenous works of art into the light at the British Museum, The Financial Review, April 29th
- 2015 Sculthorpe, G. Carty, J. Morphy, H. Nugent, M. Coats, I. Bolton, L. Jones, J. Indigenous Australia enduring civilisation (exhibition catalogue) The British Museum, London, UK
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- 2015 Reuters video, Prince Charles says Indigenous history as important as ANZAC day, Reuters, May 1st
- 2015 Dulaney, Michael. Spinifex artwork takes pride of place at British Museum, The Kalgoorlie Miner, May 8th
- 2013 Rothwell, Nicolas. "Dilemma of difference in indigenous art awards", The Australian August 13, 2013
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- 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' (exhibition catalogue) John Curtin Gallery, Perth. W.A
- 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 Rothwell, Nicolas. "Paintings of lifetimes in the desert" The Australian, August 6th 2012.
- 2011 Ryan, J. 2011, Living Water: Contemporary Art of the Far Western Desert, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne VIC
- 2011 Barlow, G. 2011, Networks Cells and Silos (exhibition catalogue), Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne VIC
- 2010 Cumpston, N. 2010, Desert Country (exhibition catalogue), Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA
- 2010 Vivien Anderson Gallery 2010, Australian Contemporary Indigenous Art Now (exhibition catalogue), Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2009 Spinifex Artists (exhibition catalogue), Japingka Gallery, Fremantle WA
- 2009 Art Gallery of Western Australia 2009, Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA
- 2008 Vivien Anderson Gallery, 2008, Kapi Ninti – Knowing Water Knowing Country, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2002 Cane, S. 2002, Pila Nguru: The Spinifex People, Fremantle Arts Centre Press, Fremantle WA