

NYANU WATSON



Born 1951 Language Group Pitjanjatjara Region Pitjanjatjara, SA

BIOGRAPHY

Nyanu was born at a site near Pukatja (Emabella, South Australia). As a young girl, she worked at the Christan mission there, spinning and dyeing wools to make rugs. She later moved to the neighbouring community of Amata, where she began work in the local store and cooked food for the children at the school.

During the homelands movement (an initiative to enable Anangu to return to their own country), Nyanu travelled to Kalka, where she still lives today. As well as being an avid crafts woman - mostly wood carving and grass weaving - Nyanu is a regular painter at the art centre and is a prominent member of Ninuku Arts.

Nyanu is known for her unusual depictions of various animals found in the area surrounding Kalka. She uses a combination of brushwork and do ng to create the highly stylised and unique creatures for which she has become known. Some of her favourites include the ngintaka (perentie), anumara (type of caterpillar), and kakalyalya (pink cockatoo).

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018 Bold & Beautiful - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs NT



- 2017 Ninuku Prints Chapman and Baileys Gallery
- 2016 Desert Mob Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2016 Kala ngura ngayuku Colours of my home/country Art Mob Gallery, Hobart TAS
- 2015 Ninuku Tjuta Red Dot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
- 2015 Desert Mob Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2012 Strong Women, Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, Muswellbrook NSW
- 2011 Manta Iri tjangku: Ngura Kutjupalakutu, Ancient Land: New Territory Gallery nine5 and Harvey Art Projects, Soho New York
- 2011 INMA: Our Ceremony Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2011 Ngintaka RAFT Artspace, Alice Springs NT
- 2011 Four Artists Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2010 Ngura Kalatjara Land and Colour AP Bond, Adelaide SA
- 2009 Desert Mob Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2009 Women and Colour Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2009 Kulunypa Tjuta Paintamilani: Lots of Small Paintings Short Street Gallery, Cairns NT
- 2009 Warka Kuwari Walkatjunanyi: New paintings by the Ar sts of Ninuku Alcaston Gallery
- 2009 Kulila Nganampa Tjukurpa. Listen to our Stories. Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2008 Ninuku Artists print exhibition 'Pirinyi' Nomad Art Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2008 Ngura Tjuta: Big Country Short Street Gallery, Broome WA
- 2008 Ninuku Artists Ngintaka Tjukurpa: Peren e Lizard Dreaming Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2008 Desert Mob Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2008 Desert Mob Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT



2008 Celebrating Country: Kingship & Culture - Seymour College Art Show, Adelaide SA

2008 Kulila Nganampa Tjukurpa. Listen to our Stories - Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT

2007 Ninuku Arts - Hogarth Gallery, Sydney NSW

2007 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT

2007 Tjukurpa Kutjupa: Other Stories from Ninuku Arts and Tjanpi Desert Weavers - Short Street Gallery, Broome WA

2006 Skin on Skin - Tuggernaong Arts Centre, Canberra ACT

COLLECTIONS

ARTBANK COLLECTION
PARLIAMENT HOUSE COLLECTION, CANBERRA SIR JAMES AND LADY CRUTHERS
COLLECTION SWIFT LAGERBERG COLLECTION
THE ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
THE MARTIN COPLEY COLLECTION

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2009 Diana James, Painting the Song: Kaltjiti artists of the sand dune country, McCulloch & McCulloch 2009

2009 Jukumpa Books, Diary 2010, IAD Press, Alice Springs

2009 'Fresh Look at Aboriginal Painting', Charly Smith, The Canberra Times, September 2011 Claire Armstrong, Western APY Lands exhibition catalogue, ARTKELCH Gallery, Germany

2011 'Western APY Lands Boutique Art travels to Europe, Art Link Indigenous Issue, Volume 31 no.2 June 2011

2012 Nganampa Ngura Catalogue, Essay by Claire Eltringham, May 2012

2012 NAISA, Australian Aboriginal Contemporary Art Show in New York City by Willie Brown, Saturday 19 May 2012

2012 Manta Irititjangku: Ngura Kutjupalakutu Catalogue Essay by Nici Cumpston (AGSA) May 2012 Aboriginal Art & Culture: An American Eye Blog, Aboriginal Art in America, Again (Summer 2012), June 24

2012 Sun Valley Property News, Art Scene, Harvey Art Projects Goes Coast to Coast, May 2012 PRI's The World (News Program), Vibrant Aboriginal Art Gives Power To Indigenous Australians by Marlon Bishop, July 4 2012

2012 artinasia.com, Ninuku Artists by Alcaston Gallery, 2012



2012 Australian Consulate General (USA), Feature, June 2012

2012 Canberra Times, Balck, White and Beautiful by Sasha Grishin, February 27 2012

2012 Kluge Ruhe, Aboriginal Art Collection of University of Virginia, New Piece, May 2012

2012 Aboriginal Art & Culture: An American Eye Blog, Ancestral Modern in Seattle and Ninuku in New York, May

2012 APY bites into the Big Apple, Freatur by Tim Lloyd, The Advertiser, June 30