



Short St. Gallery



Terry Murray (Murungkurr)

Birth Year 1976
Language Group Walmajarri
Region West Kimberley

My Name is Murungkurr Terry Murray and i am a Walmajarri Man. I lived on Cherrabun Station in a tin shelter. My family had no vehicle so they went hunting on foot. Murungkurr has a strong grounding in bush skills which he learnt from his parents.

He paints hisjaja [grandfather - Pater Skipper] and japi's [grandmother's] country, called Wirnpa and Japingka. It is the southwestern side of the Great Sandy Desert. This is jila [permanent waterhole] country. His mother and brothers lived around there when they were kids.

Murungkurr has strong family connections to a significant group of Mangkaja artists and knows his law and family relationships through his skin group. He explains, "Our culture is an everyday learning thing. I grew up with this. You have to have a strong mind and strong spirit and soul and always listen to your elders". His father, Peter Skipper was both an important artist as well as being a cultural leader for the Ngurrara Canvas from Walmajarri country in the Great Sandy Desert. Additionally, artists Jimmy Nerrimah and Mona Chuguna, Paji Honeychild and Cory Surprise are all close family members.

In 1997, Terry was the youngest painter alongside his elders on the Ngurrara Canvas. This incredibly important work was used in the Native Title Determination for the Walmajarri people. With respect of the elders past and present and the four language groups, Terry is currently leading management of the Ngurrara Canvas in cooperation with the Ngurrara Canvas Group Management Committee. He is tasked with moving forward and showing those connections to the Great Sandy Desert through artwork, dance and the transfer of knowledge.



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Exhibitions

- 2019 Ngurrara Canvas, Sharjah
- 2018 Ngurrara Canvas, Sharjah
- 2017 Ngurrara Canvas, 20 Year Celebration – Pinini Lake, Kurlku, WA
- 2016 Gimme Shelter - A Survey Show from the Artists of Fitzroy Valley, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2012 Mangkaja Arts 21 Year Anniversary Tandanya, Adelaide, SA
- 2009 Margaret River Meets Fitzroy Crossing, Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River WA
- 2005 True Colours, Suzanne O'Connell Australian Indigenous Art in conjunction with Dell Gallery, Griffith University, Brisbane
- 2004 Painted the doorway with Jukuna Mona Chuguna for Porta oberta al Dreamtime, Art Aborigen Contemporani d'Australia / Caxia de Girona, Spain
- 2004 Body of Art, Raft Artspace, Darwin
- 2002 Exhibition Catalogue- Adelaide Biennale of Australian Art. SA
- 2001 Ngurrara Canvas, National Gallery of Australia
- 2001 Mangkaja Arts Ten Years On, Tandanya, Adelaide
- 1999 Ngurrara Japingka Gallery, Fremantle WA

Publications

- 2004 Perth International Arts Festival
- 2003 Exhibition Catalogue : Cullity Gallery UWA Perth- Martuwarra and Jila (River & Desert)
- 2003 Painted Desert The Fate of an Aboriginal Masterpiece, New Yorker Magazine.
- 1998 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Kimberley Land Council – Parliament House Canberra and ANU 2003

Dance Performances

- 2004 Opening Ceremony, Perth International Arts Festival
- 2003 25th Anniversery Celebration of the Kimberley Land Council
- 1998 Parliament House Canberra and ANU