



# Short St. Gallery

## Puntjina Monica Watson

Born c. 1940  
Language Group Pitjantjatjara  
Region APY Lands



### Biography

Puntjina Monica Watson was born in 1943 at Pukara, an important and sacred rock hole in Western Australia. Pukara is one of the sites of the 'Wanampi tjukurpa', the water snake Dreamtime story. As a young girl, she walked from Western Australia to the community of Pukatja in South Australia, alongside her father and his three wives. The youngest of her father's wives was prominent artist, Wingu Tingima. Monica worked in the craft room at Pukatja before marrying Wimitja Watson, a 'Ngangkari' (traditional healer), and moving to Amata. They went on to have many children. During the late 1970s and the "Homeland Movement", the Watson family returned to their traditional home lands, and settled into the community of Pipalyatjara. Monica continues to live in Pipalyatjara today, where she is a much respected elder. Wimitja was also heavily involved in cultural business up until his passing in 2017. Monica is well known for her quirky use of vibrant colours and composition, often framing her paintings with an intricate border created by a plethora of colourful dot work. Monica is also a passionate and committed artist, painting almost every day at Ninuku, and has established herself as one of the centre's leading artists.

### Group Exhibitions

2020	Artitja Gallery, Earlyworks, Fremantle WA -CULTURAL CONNECTIONS I The Gift of Story
2019	Tamanthi: Adelaide College of the Arts, Adelaide SA -The Aralya Project
2018	Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT -Desert Mob
2018	Charles Darwin University Gallery, Darwin NT-Salon des Refusés
2018	Better World Arts, Adelaide SA-SALA- South Australian Living Artists Festival
2018	Pandanus Gallery, Cairns, QLD-PUKARA - A WATERHOLE
2017	Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT -Desert Mob
2017	Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels-From the past to the present with Ninuku Artists
2017	Chapman Bailey Gallery, Melbourne VIC-Ninuku Prints



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2016	Art Mob Gallery, Hobart TAS-Kala ngura ngayuku - Colours of my home/country
2015	Red Dot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore-Ninuku Tjuta
2015	Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT -Desert Mob
2012	Araluen Cultural Centre, Alice Springs NT-Desert Mob
2011	Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney NSW-Painting the Land
2011	Short Street Gallery, Broome WA-One Song, Different Tune
2011	Red Dot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore-Nganampa Ngura
2011	Gallery nine5 and Harvey Art Projects, Soho New York-Manta Irititjangu: Ngura Kutjupalakuta, Ancient Land:New Territory
2011	Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs NT-APY Lands Emerging Art
2011	Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT-Desert Mob
2010	Short Street Gallery, Broome WA-Wati Ngintaka Tjukurpa - Yangi Yangi Fox and Ninuku Arts
2010	Art Kelch Touring Exhibition, Germany-The Western APY Lands
2010	RAFT artspace, Alice Springs NT-The Shared Language of Paint Exhibition of works from the Ildiko Kovacs Residency
2010	Sydney, NSW-Shalom Gamarada Charity Fundraiser
2010	Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney NSW-Recent Works by Ninuku Arts
2010	Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC-Ngura Wirukanyanku -This is a Beautiful Place
2010	AP Bond Gallery, Adelaide SA-Ngura Kalatjara - Land and Colour
2010	Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River WA-Kulina Inma - Listen to Song
2009	Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT-Women and Colour
2009	Ninuku Artists: 'Ngintaka Tjukurpa: Perentie Lizard Dreaming', Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2009	Tjungu: All Together, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW
2008	Ninuku Arts Inaugral Sydney Show, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2008	35th Alice Prize, Alice Springs, NT
2008	South Australia Living Artists Festival, Art Gallery of South Australia, SA
2008	Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
2008	Tjukurpa Kutjupa Kutjupa: Other Stories from Ninuka Arts and Tjanpi Desert Weavers, Short St Gallery, Broome.
2008	Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
2008	South Australian Living Artists Festival, Art Gallery of South Australia
2008	Ninku Arts Inaugral Sydney Show, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
2008	35th Alice Prize 2008
2008	Ninuku Tjukurpa- Bilby Dreaming, Ninuku Arts Group Show, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
2007	Desert Mob, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
2007	Our Mob, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide
2007	Ninuku Arts in Focus, Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth



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- 2007 APY Lands show, Australian Dreaming Art Gallery, Melbourne.  
2007 Skin on Skin, Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Canberra  
2007 Anangu Backyard, The Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide

## Collections

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
ARTBANK COLLECTION  
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE COLLECTION, CANBERRA  
SIR JAMES AND LADY CRUTHERS COLLECTION  
W & V MCGEOCH COLLECTION

## Bibliography

- 2009 Dr Ross Moore, 'Ninuku Artists: Perentie Lizard Dreaming', Australian Aboriginal Art, Issue 2 June 2009.  
2009 'Fresh Look at Aboriginal Stories' Charly Smith, The Canberra Times, September 2009  
2010 Art Monthly, Front Cover Image, Issue 236 Summer 2010  
2010 Promotional card set, Desert Country Exhibition, AGSA, Adelaide  
2010 Catalogue, Desert Country, AGSA, Adelaide  
2011 ArtLink Indigenous Issue, Western APY Lands'Boutique' Art to Europe, Volume 31, June 2011  
2011 Western APY Lands exhibition catalogue, Art Kelch, Germany  
2011 Invitation image, Recent Works by Ninuku Arts, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW  
2011 Claire Eltringham, catalogue essay, The Shared Language of Paint, RAFT artspace, Alice Springs  
2011 Desert Mob exhibition catalogue, September 2011  
2012 Jukurpa 2013 Diary, Jukurpa Books, IAD Press  
2012 Nganampa Ngura, Catalogue Essay by ClaireEltringham, May 2012  
2012 Manta Irititjangu: Ngura Kutjupalakutu, Catalogue Essay by Nici Cumpston (AGSA), May 2012  
2012 Aboriginal Art & Culture: An American Eye Blog, Aboriginal Art in America, Again (Summer 2012), June 24  
2012 Aboriginal Art & Culture: An American Eye Blog, Ancestral Modern in Seattle, Ninuku in New York, May 27  
2012 Artists Talking, A reportage of: Art, Design, Gallery & NYC Events by David Barish, New Palettes of an Ancient Land, June 1 2012  
2012 Australian Consulate General (USA), Feature, June 2012



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- 2012 NAISA, Australian Aboriginal Contemporary Art Show in New York City by Willie Brown, Saturday 19 May 2012
- 2012 PRI' The World (News Program), Vibrant Aboriginal Art Exhibit Gives Power to Indigenous Australians by Marlon Bishop, July 4 2012
- 2012 Sun Valley Property News, Art Scene, Harvey Art Projects Goes Coast to Coast, May 2012
- 2012 Kluge-Ruhe, Aboriginal Art Collection of University of Virginia, News piece, May 2012
- 2012 APY art bites into the Big Apple, Feature by Tim Lloyd, The Advertiser, Saturday June 30 2012
- 2012 Canberra Times, Black, White and Beautiful by Sasha Grishin, February 2012
- 2012 Desert Mob 2012 Catalogue, Desert and Araluen, September 2012
- 2012 Angloinfo, Art and Exhibitions in Singapore, Singapore Event: 'Nganampa Ngura' (Our Place), 26 April 2012
- 2012 artinasia, Nganampa Ngura (Our Place)- Senior men and women's paintings about their home country, ReDot Gallery 14 April 2012