

Short St. Gallery

Lily Long (Jatarr)

Birth Year c.1940
Language Group Wamman
Region Karlamilyi



Biography

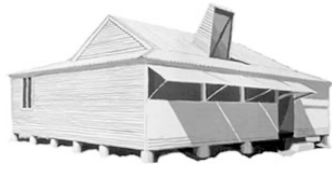
"This Karlamilyi area, big land. That's a ngurra (home Country, camp) belonging to our old people, Wamman people. We talk for our land, our jila (snake). I grew up in this Country, my Country. This land belongs to our father. In pujiman (traditional, desert dwelling) days I walked around here, used to walk up and down tuwa (sandhill) and back to the main camp belonging to Martu. We are Wamman ladies, painting Kintyre and Karlamilyi. We can share this Country."

- Sisters Wurta Amy French and Jatarr Lily Long

Jatarr Lily Long is a Wamman woman and senior custodian for Karlamilyi (Rudall River) Country. She was born in the late 1930s at Jatarrngara, a water source on the Karlamilyi River from which her name is derived. Jatarr is the sister of fellow artists Helen Dale Samson and the late Wurta Amy French. Her father was a drover who attempted, unsuccessfully, to 'steal' Jatarr's mother and take her back to the Kimberley region.

Jatarr grew up with her family in the area surrounding Tiwa (Canning Stock Route Well 26), a water source located east of Parnngurr Aboriginal Community and just west of a culturally significant group of hills called Partujarrapirri. Her family returned to the Karlamily region for a time, moving between camps located all along the Karlamily River and up to the large salt lake, Nyayartakujarra (Lake Dora). In the late 1940's her family left Karlamily and travelled on foot for more than 200 kilometres to Jigalong Mission, where a supply of rationed food and water was assured. There they were reunited with family members that had already moved in from the desert.

At Jigalong, Jatarr lived in a dormitory with her two sisters and went to school. Later, she worked as a cook on various pastoral stations in the Pilbara and mined for iron and other minerals with a yandy (dish used for winnowing seed). Eventually, Jatarr relocated to Irungadji Aboriginal community, just outside of Nullagine, where she continues to live with her sister Wurta, children and grandchildren.



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Today Jatarr lives at Irrungadji Community near Nullagine with her children and grandchildren. As an artist, she has always worked with her sisters at her side, and they have frequently collaborated on larger works. In her paintings, Jatarr depicts her ngurra (home Country, camp) and its animals, waterholes, and Jukurpa (Dreaming) stories. She uses her art as a means of transferring cultural knowledge to her children and grandchildren and as a political platform, protecting her Country from mining and other disruptions. Jatarr is known for her soft pastel palettes and dreamy landscapes, which blend aerial and frontal perspectives. Her work has been widely exhibited in Australia and internationally, and is held in major collections including the National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of Western Australia, and National Museum of Australia.

Solo Exhibitions

2011 Warnman Country, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne

Exhibitions

2024	Kujungka, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA
2024	Martumili Artists at Japingka Gallery, Fremantle
2024	THE MATERIAL ART FAIR- Mexico City
2023	Represent Part 1, Aboriginal Figurative Practice in Western Australia, FORM Gallery, Perth, WA
2023	Paper Wangka (Paper Story), Chapman and Bailey, Melbourne, Vic
2023	Dancing For Our Country, Yaama Ganu, Moree, NSW
2023	Desert Mob 2023, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
2023	TDF Collect Presents: 'Martumili Artists', Collingwood, Vic
2023	Songlines - Centres d'art du desert australien, IDAIA/ Australian Embassy, Paris, France
2022	Tracks We Share
2021	Desert Mob 2021, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
2021	Martumili Mob, The Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, WA
2021	Paper Wangka (Paper Story), Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA
2020	Martumili Ngurra - Our Country, Aboriginal Contemporary, Bronte, NSW
2020	Ngurra Means Home, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA
2019	Martumili Kuulkaja (Martu Schools), Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA
2019	Martu Wangka, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA
2018	Hedland Art Award, The Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, WA
2018	Warla Tuwa, Aboriginal Contemporary, Bronte, NSW
2017	Art at the Heart, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA
2017	Community Life, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA
2017	After The Rains, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA



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2016	Scratching the surface, Alliance Francaise de Sydney, Sydney, NSW
2016	Desert Mob
2015	Desert Mob, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
2015	Pukurlpa - Good Inside, Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree, NSW
2014	Martumili, Harvey Arts Projects, USA
2014	Right Now, Boomali Gallery, Leichardt, Vic
2013	Martumili Arts Show, Newman Visitors Centre, Newman
2013	A Study of the Figurative in Desert Painting, Short Street Gallery, Broome
2013	The Great Sandy Desert, Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree
2012	We Don t Need A Map: a Martu experience of the Western Desert
2012	Warla: an explanation of the salt lakes in the Great Sandy Desert, Short Street Gallery, Broome
2012	Decrochage de lexposition des Martumili Artists, Galerie Kungka, France
2012	Desert Mob, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs
2012	Martumili Artists 2012, Merenda Gallery, Perth
2011	Living Water- Contemporary Art of the Far Western Desert, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
2011	Yiwarra Kuju- One Road, One People, Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, Perth
2011	Yiwarra Kuju- One Road, One People, Australian Museum, Sydney
2010	Yiwarra Kuju-One Road, One People, National Museum of Australia, Canberra
2010	Jakulpa laju kartyinpa (Bringing a message), Chapman Gallery, Canberra
2010	Warla Tjartrjal - Edge of the Lake, Short St. Gallery, Broome
2009	Wangka-Lampaju (Our Story), Randell Lane Art Gallery, Perth
2009	Puntu Kurnu (Belongs to the People), Newman Visitors Centre, Newman
2009	Warranpalampa (Our Country), William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
2009	Warranpalampaju Kayili Yaninpa (Our Country Travelling North), RAFT Artspace, Darwin
2009	Yankuni Laju Kamkani Kukungka (We Are Travelling Together By Air), ReDot Gallery, Singapore
2008	Jitirangu (Rainbow), Randell Lane Gallery, Perth
2007	Martu-la Wakarnu Kuwarri Wiyaju, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne

Collections

National Gallery of Victoria
National Museum of Australia

Awards

2013 Finalist, Glencore Art Centre Award