



# Short St. Gallery



## Lily Jatarr Long

**Birth Year** 1940  
**Language Group** Warnman  
**Region** East Pilbara

*"This Karlamilyi area, big land. That's a ngurra (home Country, camp) belonging to our old people, Warnman 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 Warnman ladies, painting Kintyre and Karlamilyi. We can share this Country."*  
- Sisters Wurta Amy French and Jatarr Lily Long

Jatarr Lily Long is a Warnman 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 Parngurr 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 tin and other



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minerals with a yandy (dish used for winnowing seed). Eventually, Jatarr relocated Irrungadji Aboriginal community, just outside of Nullagine, where she continues to live with her sister Wurta, children and grandchildren.

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

## Group 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 dart du desert australien, IDAIA/ Australian Embassy, Paris, France  
2022 Tracks We Share 2021 August 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



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- 2017 Art at the Heart, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA  
2017 Community Life, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA  
2017 After The Rains, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA  
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

Art Gallery of Western Australia  
National Gallery of Victoria  
National Museum of Australia



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## **Awards**

2013      Finalist, Glencore Art Centre Award