



Short St. Gallery

Yikartu Bumba

Birth Year 1939
Language Group Manyjilyjarra
Region Punmu: WA



Biography

"When I was a little girl, my father and mother took me around [Yulparija Country, north of Manyjilyjarra Country]. We used to walk around when I was a little girl. We travelled with my grandmother and all the family, we travelled with my sisters and brothers. We went from place to place, stopping in one place, hunting around and stopping in another place. We visited all the yinta (permanent springs). We could even travel on the water from a soak. I used to stay at the camp, waiting by the water, while my parents and grandparents would go out to get a lot of meat and other food. The little kids would stay home and hunt for small lizards. Then we would all travel together to another place. My grandparents really loved and cared for me when I was a little girl. They took good care of me. I was growing bigger at that time. When I grew bigger, I was able to go hunting on my own. I hunted cats and goannas. My parents still went hunting for meat for us all then.

[Later] I lost my mother and my grandmother, and then my father left us and walked into a station, but my other grandmother kept looking after me. I was still travelling with my mother's mother when I got married [became second wife to the father of Yuwali Janice Nixon (dec.)] and had my daughter, Barli. When I was travelling with my husband and all the family we went south to Wimpa and Kurturrara. We stayed around there for a time and then went northeast, on the tableland. During the wet season we would travel out from the yinta (permanent springs) across the tableland. I would travel with Yuwali's mother [the first wife of Yikartu's husband]. We would walk together, hunting as we went.

During a rainy season we were staying in one place for a while and we had a visitor from Bidyadanga. There was one missionary [Father McKelson] and two Martu men travelling with him. They asked us who we were and wrote it down on a piece of paper. Then he told us to sit down and wait for them to come back with a vehicle. From there we went into the mission."

- Yikartu Bumba, as translated by Ngalangka Nola Taylor

Yikartu is a Manyjilyjarra woman born in the 1940s at Lalyipuka, north of Wimpa and in Juwaliny Country. Her ngurra (home Country, camp) lies at the northern boundary of Martu Country, around the Percival Lakes region and further northward. She lived a *pujiman* (traditional, desert



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dwelling) lifestyle until she was married and had a child, at which point the group she was travelling with first encountered a vehicle. Two Martu men and a missionary had travelled from the La Grange mission at Bidyadanga to look for people still living in the desert. They gave Yikartu and her family food and fruit, and later returned to pick up Yikartu and everyone she was travelling with. Her family group was one of the last to leave the desert

At Bidyadanga Yikartu met up with a close uncle of hers and many other Martu, Juwaliny and Mangala people. She lived in both Bidyadanga and Jigalong for a period, during which she had three more daughters. During the 1980s 'Return to Country' movement Yikartu relocated to Punmu Aboriginal community to be closer to her home ngurra.

Yikartu often paints her husband's Country, close to Wimpa, but also paints her mother's, father's and all her grandparents' Country around Lungkurangu, north of the Great Sandy Desert. Yikartu paints the jila (living water, snake) water sources running from Yulpu to Yimiri, Kupankurlu, Kurturrara and Wimpa. Yikartu's work has been exhibited widely across Australia and internationally, and her collaborative works acquired by the National Museum of Australia and the National Gallery of Australia

Group Exhibitions

2021	Warralong, Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree, NSW
2021	Paper Wangka (Paper Story), Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA
2020	Martumili Ngurra - Our Country, Aboriginal Contemporary, Bronte, NSW
2020	Kujungka- Young and Old Together, Aboriginal Signature, Brussels, Belgium
	2019 September Desert Mob 2019, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
2019	Punmukarti!, Yaama Gaanu, Moree NSW
2019	Martumili Kuulkaja (Martu Schools), Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA
2019	Nyumma (burnt Country), Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin NT
2017	Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters, touring exhibition from National Museum of Australia, Canberra, ACT
2017	Community Life, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA
2016	Black White & Restive 2015 November Three Deserts Singing
2015	Martumili Artists 2015 June Pukurlpa - Good Inside
2015	The Summer Collectors Show 2015
2014	Martumili 2014 September Desert Mob
2013	Australia, Royal Academy of the Arts, London, England
2012	We Don't Need A Map: a Martu experience of the Western Desert
2012	Martumili Artists, IDAIA - International Development for Australian Indigenous Art, Galerie Kungka, Saint Avertin, France
2012	Warla: an explanation of the salt lakes in the Great Sandy Desert, Short Street Gallery, Broome



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2012	Strong Women Country, IDAIA - International Development for Australian Indigenous Art, Paris, France
2012	Museums In The Incident, Faculty Gallery, Monash University
2010	Desert Mob, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs
2010	Living Water – Contemporary Art of the Far Western Desert, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
2010	Waru! Holding Fire in Australia's Western Desert, Thomas Welton Stanford Art Gallery, Stanford University, San Francisco
2009	Yiwarra Kuju – One Road, One People, National Museum of Australia, Canberra
2009	Edge of the Lake, Short Street Gallery, Broome
2009	Before and After Science, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide Biennial 2010
2009	Martumili Group Exhibition, Redot Art Gallery, Singapore
2009	Martumili Group Exhibition, AP Bond Gallery, Adelaide
2009	Jakupla laju kartyinpa (Bringing a message), Chapman Gallery, Canberra
2008	Warranpalampa (Our Country), William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
2008	Nintijunu (Teaching), Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney
2008	Yankuni Laju Kamkani Kujungka (We are travelling together by air), Red Dot Gallery, Singapore
2008	Warranpalampaju kayili yaninpa (Our Country travelling north), Raft Art Space, Darwin
2008	Puntu kumu (Belongs to the people), Newman Visitors Centre, Newman
2007	Laltu tujuparaku, yupalpa yimaparaku (Lots of women, little bit men), Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
2007	Martumili Artists Recent Works, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
2006	Martu-la wakamu kuwarri wiyaju, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne

Collections

National Gallery of Victoria
National Museum of Australia