



Short St. Gallery



Katjarra Butler

Born 1946 - 2025
Language Ngaanyatjarra / Pintupi
Region NG Lands

Written by Elizabeth Marrkilyi (Katjarra's neice): Katjarra was born quite close to Kulkurta and Purrungu at a place called Kuun. Kuun is the name of the waterhole there. Kuun is also the name of the yellow ochre. There is also a place very close to Kuun that Katjarra refers to as her home and is one of her Tjukurpa or Dreaming which she paints. It is called Kuurmankutja. This place is home to the two Kuniya (python) dreaming. The other dreaming that she paints is Marrapimti. Her father was Liliwara Tjungurrayi and her mother was Mangkatji Nangala. Katjarra had an older sister Nguya Napaltjarri and younger brother Peter Tjanpaltjarri, now both deceased. Katjarra had an older sister Nguya Napaltjarri and younger brother Peter Tjanpaltjarri, now both deceased. Katjarra lived with her parents, siblings and immediate family in the bush as a child, teenager and young married woman. She lived with her family and later with her husband in the country to the west of Tjukurla in the Kulkurta area which is south of the Baron Range in Western Australia. Katjarra lived a traditional nomadic lifestyle only, travelling families within their family's country and lived off the animals that they hunted and bush food that they collected. They collected and drank water from the rockholes, soakages, springs and claypans (waterholes). All the travelling was done on foot.

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Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 Walykumunu, Gallery 8 Hele, Mparntwe/Alice Springs
- 2023 KATJARRA, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Naarm/Melbourne
- 2021 Tamaranthi Festival, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 2020 Ngamurru - RAFT Artspace, Alice Springs

Group Exhibitions

- 2025 Minyma Mankurpa (Three Women), Vivien Anderson Gallery, Naarm/Melbourne
- 2025 The Women's Show – 20th Anniversary, Vivien Anderson, Naarm/Melbourne
- 2024 Mosman Art Prize, Mosman Art Gallery, Sydney
- 2024 Salon Des Refuses NATSIAA 2024, Darwin
- 2024 Cross-Country: Art from remote art centres, ObOne Gallery, Naarm/Melbourne
- 2024 Pimi Pitjaku (Coming together), Aboriginal Contemporary, Sydney
- 2024 Salon Des Refuses (Wynne) 2024, S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
- 2024 Rapa, Yaama Ganu, Moree
- 2024 Yamma Ganu Group Showcase 2024
- 2023 Salon Des Refuses, Darwin
- 2023 Ngurrampatju, Aboriginal Contemporary, Sydney
- 2023 Crossing Country - Artitja, Earlywork, Perth
- 2023 Pink Is Punk, Short Street Gallery, Broome
- 2023 The Womens Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, St Kilda
- 2023 Really One Story: Art of the Ngaanyatjarra Lands, FORM Gallery, Perth
- 2021 Walykumunu! Rikini Way! - Yaama Ganu, NSW
- 2021 Desert Mob 2021
- 2021 NATSIAA Finalist Exhibition 2021
- 2021 JGM Gallery London - Tjarliri and Kaltukatjara exhibition
- 2021 Wynne Prize Finalist Exhibition
- 2021 Lurrtjuringula/Tjunguringanyi - Aboriginal Contemporary
- 2020 Merry-Go-Round - JGM Gallery London
- 2020 New Aquisitions - National Museum of Australia
- 2020 Tjukurla Masters - Yaama Ganu
- 2020 Salon Des Refuses, CDU Darwin
- 2020 Rawa Titungarala - Artsource WA
- 2020 Group Womens Show 2020, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2019 Adazzle Exhibition - JGM Gallery London



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- 2019 Desert Mob 2019
- 2019 Group Womens Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2018 Summer Salon - Raft Artspace, Alice Springs
- 2018 Hanging Valley Gallery, Melbourne
- 2018 Port Hedland Art Award - Finalist
- 2018 Desert Mob 2018
- 2018 Albany Art Prize - Finalist, Albany WA
- 2018 The Alice Prize, Finalist - Alice Springs
- 2018 The Womens Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2017 Summer Salon, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs
- 2017 Ng Salon, Tarnanthi Festival, Raft Artspace & Hanging Valley, Praxis Gallery
- 2017 Ngurra: Home on the Ngaanyatjarra lands, South Australia Museum TARNANTHI
- 2017 Port Hedland Art Award - Finalist
- 2017 Desert Mob 2017, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2017 Minyma Mayatja, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2017 Salon Des Refuses, CDU, Darwin
- 2017 Tjukurla Tjukurpa, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
- 2017 The Womens Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2017 Wala Wingki, Raft South, Hobart
- 2016 Whos Afraid of Colour?, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
- 2016 Power.Colour.Story, Harvey Art Projects, USA
- 2016 Sag mir wo die Punkte Sind..., ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
- 2016 Sehverlust und Sinneslust, ARTKELCH, Germany
- 2016 art Karlsruhe 2016, ARTKELCH @ art Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2016 WINNER Wyndam Art Prize 2016
- 2016 PRO COMMUNITY — Ngaanyatjarra Lands, touring exhibition, ARTKELCH, Germany
- 2015 Palya, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2015 Desert Mob 2015, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2015 Recent Works from Tjarliri Art- RAFT Artspace
- 2015 Western Desert Mob- Paintings from Tjarliri and Warakurna- Harvey Art Projects US
- 2014 Warakurna Artists and Tjarliri Art- Vivien Anderson Gallery
- 2014 Our Home in Colour- Outstation
- 2013 The Wild Ones, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs
- 2013 Desert Mob 2013
- 2013 Harvey Arts Projects USA, Sun Valley
- 2013 Tjarliri Art: In Profile, Marshall Arts
- 2012 Desert Mob 2012
- 2011 Tjarliri Artists - William Mora Gallery Melbourne
- 2010 National Australian Indigenous Art Award, Darwin
- 2010 Short Street Gallery, Broome
- 2010 Group Exhibition - Chapman Gallery, Canberra
- 2010 Seniors and Emerging - Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River



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2010 Desert Mob, 2010
2010 Western Desert Mob Print Show, Nomad, Darwin
2009 Group Exhibition - Randall Lane Fine Art, Perth
2008 Group Exhibition - William Mora Gallery, Melbourne
2007 "Big Country" Gondwana Gallery Alice Springs

Collections

ARALUEN COLLECTION
LEPLEY COLLECTION
NGV COLLECTION
SWIFT LAGERBURG COLLECTION
W. & V. MCGEOCH COLLECTION
SIMS DICKSON COLLECTION
SOUTH AUSTRALIA MUSEUM
WYNDUM CITY COUNCIL COLLECTION
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY COLLECTION
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA
MUSEUM FUNF KONTINENTE, MÜNCHEN, GERMANY
ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
ART GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - STATE COLLECTION
ARTBANK

Awards

2024 Mosman Art Prize, Finalist
2023 The Wynne Prize - Finalist
2022 Hadley Art Prize Finalist
2021 NATSIAA Finalist 2021
2021 Finalist Wynne Prize - AGNSW
2018 Port Hedland Art Award
2018 Albany Art Prize - Finalist
2018 The Alice Prize, Finalist
2017 Port Hedland Art Award
2016 WINNER Wyndam Art Prize

Bibliography

2008 Lives of Papunya Tula Artists - Vivien Johnson
2012 Art of the Lands - Tim Acker, John Carty