



# Short St. Gallery



## Nellie Coulthard

**Born** 1947  
**Language Group** Yankunytjatjara  
**Region** APY Lands

### Biography

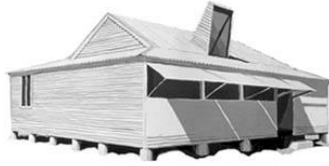
Nellie Coulthard was born in desert bush and near Oodnadatta, on the remote property of the Wintinna Homestead Cattle Station. Her father worked as a shepherd for a local station, Nellie and her family traveled constantly and slept outdoors supporting her father and caring for the sheep. Nellie has two brothers and two sisters, and has lived at the Indulkana community since she was a young lady.

As there was no established housing for Indigenous people in the 1950's, Nellie and her family lived in a hand built wiltja made from found materials such as sheets of tin and dried logs and branches, close to the stationmasters home. Nellie's great niece Vicki Cullinan translates for her stating;

"When I was born, the stationmasters wife had a little girl on the same day! When we were little my family had no house and no car, we were always walking wherever we had to go. There was no school, so I learnt things from my parents and the country. When I was older I saw camels for the first time but I didn't know what they were, and my father took us for a ride on them."

When she was still quite young, Nellie took on a job at the Granite Downes Cattle Station in the stationmasters home. She worked with the stationmaster's wife and other Anangu ladies washing dishes and cleaning the house in exchange for rations and tobacco for her father. Nellie married a young stockman who was also working at the Granite Downes Cattle Station, and together they came to Indulkana with their two young children.

Nellie and her young family lived among friends and extended family at the Indulkana community, they lived in a little tin shed close to her niece Emily Cullinan



# Short St. Gallery

and her children. Nellie took a job at the newly established pre-school and worked with young children for most of her career. After the early, sudden death of one of her own children, Nellie adopted a daughter; she is now a proud great grandma of three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

“I was a teacher at the preschool, I loved working with the chi chi’s (children) I worked with Daisy Whiskey and Rene Sundown, now all those chi chi’s have grown up, they have their own children. I grew up in Indulkana too, I know everybody here, and it’s my home.”

Nellie is a *minyma pampa* (respected senior woman) amongst both adults and children at Indulkana; many children regularly visit her while she paints at the art centre on their school lunch breaks. Ever since her early days of working at the Indulkana preschool and then as a teacher at the newly established family centre, Nellie has always had a compassion for ongoing improvements in children’s education and opportunities available to them.

Following her retirement as an educator, Nellie has been a prolific artist, working across painting and tjanpi (native grass) weaving. Nellie's paintings evoke her memories of her nomadic childhood, spent on country near Oodnadatta and specifically refer to the Tjuntala (acacia wattle tree) that were a frequent source of bush food for her family.

Nellie has been making paintings at the Iwantja Art Centre for many years. Her work often speaks to memories and stories of the country she recalls as a young girl, they reference her childhood experiences of living in the country. An accomplished textile maker, Nellie’s structural pieces are created with extreme skill and finesse, she enjoys making unique baskets and abstract forms with tjanpi grasses and coloured wools.

Nellie was a finalist in the Wynne Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in 2018, 2019 and 2022.

As a talented singer and one of the founding members of the Indulkana church choir, Nellie is constantly involved in outreach and community development programs. Nellie participates in leading the Indulkana church choir each Sunday. While painting at the art centre, Nellie likes to listen to gospel recordings sung in language from other communities across the APY Lands.

## Solo Exhibitions

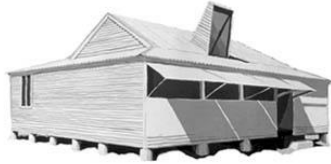
2022 Tjuntala Ngurangka – Wattle Country, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne  
2020 Nellie Ngampa Coulthard, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne



# Short St. Gallery

## Group Exhibitions

- 2022 Finalist, Wynne Prize, Art Gallery Of NSW, Sydney
- 2022 Ngura kala kutjuparinganyi— Shifting colours of Country, Outstation Gallery, Darwin
- 2022 Wiltja — Shelter, Aboriginal Signature, Brussels, Belgium
- 2022 All About Art 2022 – Annual Collectors’ Exhibition, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2021 Nganana Mukurikula Paintamilani – We Love To Paint!, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2021 Tjatu: Doing Things Together – Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2019 Wilurara Ananyi : Goin’ Out West, Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2019 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
- 2019 Tjilpi + Pampa – Senior Iwantja Artists, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2018 Nganana Kuranyukutu Ma-Palyani – For Our Future Generations, APY Gallery, Sydney
- 2018 Finalist, Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
- 2018 Art of the APY Art Centre Collective, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2018 Kungka Kunpu (Strong Women), Koskela, Sydney
- 2018 Ngura Kunpu (Strong Country), Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2018 Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
- 2018 Rising Stars, outstation Gallery, Darwin
- 2017 Salon des Refusés, Charles Darwin University, Darwin
- 2017 Many Hands - Paintings from Iwantja, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2017 Artists of the APY Lands, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2016 Our Mob, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, SA
- 2016 APY Exhibition, Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Queensland
- 2016 Ngura: Country, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2016 Iwantja Artists, Harvey Art Projects, Idaho USA
- 2016 SALT, McCulloch and McCulloch, Melbourne
- 2015 Iwantja Arts, Mr Kitly, Melbourne
- 2015 SALT, McCulloch and McCulloch, Melbourne
- 2015 Indigenous Literacy Exhibition, McCulloch and McCulloch, Sydney
- 2015 Nganampa Ngura, Ngananmpa Tjukurpa (Our Land, Our Stories) Artitja Fine Art, Perth
- 2015 TARNANTHI Art Fair, Tandanya, Adelaide
- 2015 Our Mob, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide
- 2015 Desert Colour, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2015 Spring Salon, McCulloch and McCulloch, Shoreham
- 2015 Artitja Fine Arts, Fremantle Western Australia
- 2015 In the Wild, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2014 Indigenous Literacy Exhibition, McCulloch and McCulloch, Sydney



# Short St. Gallery

2014	Artitja Fine Art, Western Australia
2014	Japingka Gallery, Perth Western Australia
2014	Tjungu Festival, Yulara, Uluru
2014	Autumn Salon, McCulloch and McCulloch, Shoreham VIC
2014	Right Now with Viscopy, Boomalli, Sydney
2014	Pukulpa Pots, Mr Kitly, Brunswick, VIC
2014	Celebrating Ten, Artitja Fine Art, Fremantle WA
2014	Ngali – Kitikiti – ni, Pop Up Gallery, The Rocks Sydney
2013	Better World Arts, Adelaide
2013	Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
2012	Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs 2011 Mossenson Gallery, Perth

## **Collections**

Artbank

Lyon Housemuseum

Queensland Art Gallery – Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) Brisbane