



# Short St. Gallery

## Shorty Jangala Robertson

**Born** 1925  
**Language** Warlpiri  
**Region** Yuendumu, NT



Shorty Jangala Robertson was born at Jila (Chilla Well), a large soakage and claypan north west of Yuendumu, a remote Aboriginal community located 290 kms north-west of Alice Springs in the NT of Australia. He lived a nomadic hunter-gatherer lifestyle with his parents, older brother and extended Warlpiri family. They travelled vast distances across desert country, passing through Warlukurlangu, south west of Jila and Ngarlikurlangu, north of Yuendumu, visiting Jangala's, his skin brothers. His childhood memories consist of stories associated with the Coniston massacre of Aboriginal people. Families were also shot at Wantaparri, close to Jila. Shorty Jangala Robertson had virtually no contact with white fellas during his youth but remembered leaving Jila for Mt Theo 'to hide' from being shot. His father died at Mt Theo. He moved with his mother to Mt Doreen Station, and subsequently the new settlement of Yuendumu. During World War II, the army took people from Yuendumu to the other Warlpiri settlement at Lajamanu. Shorty was taken and separated from his mother; however, she came to get him on foot and together they travelled hundreds of miles back to Chilla Well. Drought food and medical supplies forced Shorty and his family back to Yuendumu from time to time. His working life was full of adventure and hard work for different enterprises in the Alice Springs and Yuendumu areas. He finally settled at Yuendumu in 1967 after the Australian Citizen Referendum. It is extraordinary in all his travels and jobs over his whole working life, that he escaped the burgeoning and flourishing Central Desert art movement of the 1970's and 1980's. Thus Shorty's paintings are fresh, vigorous and new. His use of colour to paint and interpret his dreamings of Ngapa (Water), Watiyawamu (Acacia), Yankirri (Emu) and Pamapardu (Flying Ant) is vital, yet upholding the Warlpiri tradition. Shorty was well in his 70's when he started painting. He was an active member of the Warlukurlangu Artists Aboriginal Association, an Aboriginal owned and governed art centre located in Yuendumu. His first solo exhibition at Alcaston Gallery in 2003 was met with great artistic acclaim. Since then he exhibited in Aboriginal Art Exhibitions in Australia and overseas.

He passed away in September 2014 on a sunny Sunday morning.



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## Solo Exhibitions

- 2011 Shorty Jangala Robertson, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2010 Shorty Jangala Robertson, Kingfisher Gallery, Perth WA
- 2010 Shorty Jangala Robertson, Tunbridge Gallery, Perth, WA
- 2009 Shorty Jangala Robertson, Ngapa jukurpa (Water Dreaming), Coo-ee, Sydney, NSW
- 2007 Singing The Rain, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2006 Shorty Jangala Robertson, Coo-ee, Sydney, NSW
- 2005 Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs
- 2005 Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2004 Coo-ee, Sydney, NSW
- 2003 First Solo Exhibition, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne

## Group Exhibitions

- 2018 WaterMark -The Signature of life', IDAIA, Hong Kong
- 2018 L'Art des Hommes de Yuendumu', IDAIA, Versailles, France
- 2012 The Signature of Life, Hong Kong
- 2010 Songlines - La Fontaine Centre of Contemporary Art, Bahrain
- 2010 Warlu manu Ngapa: Fire & Water - Bookerlowe Gallery, Texas, USA
- 2010 Exposition d'art aborigène d'Australie, IDAIA and Galerie Princesse de Kiev, France
- 2010 We Walk Together as Friends, 6th Shalom Gamarada Ngijani Yani, Sydney NSW
- 2010 Artitja Fine Art Exhibition, Perth, WA
- 2010 Contemporary Traditions, Amelia Johnson Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2010 Warlukurlangu Artists - Recent Works, Hogarth Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2010 "Chasseur de Reves" (Dreams Hunter), African Muse Gallery, Paris, France
- 2009 Desert Mob 2009, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2009 Palya Art at Gallows Gallery, Gallows Gallery, Perth, WA
- 2009 Desert Colours, Hogarth Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 Kleur Bekennen/Show Your Colours, Vocklabruck, Austria
- 2009 Centred Art, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2009 Value of Country, ArtKelch, Freiburg, Germany
- 2009 All About Country, ArtKelch, Freiburg, Germany
- 2009 Nyiripi & Yuendumu Artists, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2009 Tracks - Bookerlowe Gallery, Texas, USA
- 2008 Warlukurlangu Wonders, Warlpiri Paintings from Yuendumu, Art Mob, Tasmania
- 2008 Contemporary Aboriginal Art Exhibition, Harrison Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2008 New Directions, Gecko Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2008 Bush Tucker 08, Arereal Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2008 Warlukurlangu Artists, Beaver Gallery, Canberra, ACT
- 2008 Desert Stories, Artitja Fine Art, Perth, WA



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- 2008 Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2008 Les couleurs du désert australien, L'Antidote, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2008 Warlukurlangu Artists, Established & Emerging Artists, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
- 2008 Shalom Gamarada Aboriginal Art Exhibition, Caspary Conference Centre, Sydney
- 2008 Representations of Country, Artitja Fine Art, Perth, WA
- 2008 Opening Doors into Colourful Dreamtime, ReDot Gallery, Singapore
- 2008 Warlukurlangu Artists, the art of Yuendumu, La Fontaine Centre of Contemporary Art, Bahrain UAE
- 2008 Artists of Nyiripi & Yuendumu, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2008 Aboriginal Art aus der Central und Western Desert, ArtKelch, Germany
- 2007 Stocking, Arterreal, Sydney, NSW
- 2007 The Christmas Show, Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs NT
- 2007 Aboriginal Printmakers NT & QLD, Framed Gallery, Darwin
- 2007 Australian Aboriginal Artists from the Central Desert, Jeffrey Moose Gallery, Seattle WA, USA
- 2007 Bush Tucker, Arterreal, Sydney, NSW
- 2007 SIPA , Seoul International Print, Photo & Edition Works Art Fair, Southern Exchange, S Korea
- 2007 Warlukurlangu - Aboriginal Art aus Yuendumu, ArtKelch, Freiburg, Germany
- 2007 The Best of the Best jewels of the desert, Framed Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2007 Above & Beyond, Caruana Fine Art & Reid Mercantile, Sydney, NSW
- 2007 Contemporary Masters of the Central Desert, SF Fine Art, Sydney, NSW
- 2007 Water for Life, Victorian Artists Society, World Vision Exhibition, Melbourne, VIC
- 2007 Above and Beyond, Caruana & Reid Fine Art, Sydney, NSW
- 2007 Shalom Gamarada Aboriginal Art Exhibition, Shalom College, Sydney, NSW
- 2007 Desert Dreamings: earth + water, Artitja Fine Art, Perth, WA
- 2007 Couples, painting partners from Yuendumu & Nyirpi, Gadfly Gallery, Perth, WA
- 2007 Desert Mob, Baguette Gallery, Brisbane in conjunction with Suzanne OConnell Gallery
- 2007 Yuendumu & Kimberley – Twin Indigenous Show, United Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2007 Warlukurlangu Artists, Hogarth Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2007 Tiwa Ngurrara – Strangers?, Artkelch, Freiburg, Germany
- 2006 Summer Evening, Anne Snell Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2006 Warlpiri Artists of Yuendumu, Japingka Gallery, WA
- 2006 Desert Mob, Araluen Art & Cultural Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2006 Warlukurlangu Artists - Recent Works, Mason Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2006 Warlukurlangu Artists – New Works, Hogarth Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2006 Gamarada Indigenous Scholarship Fund, NSW
- 2006 Paintings from the Fire Country, Birrung Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2006 Artists of Yuendumu, Australias Outback Gallery, NT & Outback Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney, NSW
- 2005 Land of Diversity, Hogarth Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2005 Warlukurlangu Group Show, Beaver Gallery, Canberra, ACT



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- 2005 Big Country Exhibition, Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs, NT
- 2005 Luminous, Northern Editions, Charles Darwin University, Darwin, NT
- 2005 Water Dreaming from the Central Desert, Walkabout Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2005 Recent Works, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2005 Group Show, Alison Kelly Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2005 'Warlukurlangu Collection', Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs,
- 2005 Jukurpa Wiri 'Important Dreaming Stories' Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs, NT
- 2005 Bellas Milani Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
- 2005 'WAAA Collection' Flinders Museum Adelaide SA
- 2005 Water Dreamings Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2004 The Alice Prize, Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs
- 2004 'All About Art – Annual Collectors Exhibition', Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne.
- 2004 'Recent Works from Warlakurlangu', Hogarth Gallery, Sydney
- 2004 'Desert Mob' Alice Springs Cultural Precinct, Araluen Arts Centre
- 2004 Shorty Robertson – Solo Exhibition, Coo-ee Aboriginal Art, Sydney
- 2004 'Big Country' Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs
- 2004 New Works from Yuendumu, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
- 2004 'Dreaming Stories', Indigenart, Perth
- 2004 'Little Warlu, Big Stories, Hot little paintings from big artists of Yuendumu, NT & Outback Centre, Sydney
- 2004 'Painting Country', Thornquest Gallery, Queensland
- 2003 True Blue Christmas 2003, Framed Gallery, NT
- 2003 Kurruwarri Wirjarlu – Big Story' Hogarth Gallery, Sydney
- 2003 Kurruwarri Pipangka – Designs on Paper' CDU Gallery, Charles Darwin University NT
- 2003 All About Art, Alcaston Gallery at Depot Gallery, Sydney
- 2003 Warlukurlangu Artists, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne 2002 Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne

## **Collections**

ARALUEN CULTURAL PRECINCT, ALICE SPRINGS  
ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY  
ARTBANK, SYDNEY, NSW  
FLINDERS UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM, MELBOURNE  
GORDON DARLING FOUNDATION, CANBERRA  
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA  
NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, MELBOURNE  
PRIVATE COLLECTIONS