



Short St. Gallery

Tess Napaljarri Ross

Born 1949
Language Warlpiri
Region Yuendumu, NT



Tess Napaljarri Ross was born close to Yuendumu, on a cattle station East of Yuendumu. She was named Daisy. When she was a little girl her family moved to Yuendumu, an Aboriginal settlement 290 kms north- west of Alice Springs. Shortly after moving to Yuendumu her father died and her mother later remarried. Her stepfather, Larry Jungarrayi Spencer who was one of the artists who painted the Yuendumu Doors, taught her the patterns and designs of Yari Pirlangu, a place south of Yuendumu. She attended the local Yuendumu School and then trained as a teacher assistant through Batchelor College in Darwin. After she finished her training she returned to Yuendumu and has been actively involved in the school Two-Way teaching program which is devoted to maintaining the indigenous Warlpiri culture and language in the community. Tess has also worked as a translator and helped to translate the Yuendumu Doors Book for IATSISS press. She is married and has one daughter, Lizzie Ross with her first husband, Jack Jakamarra Ross. She is very involved with her large extended family and the community in various programs. She has worked with Birds of Australia setting up a bird sanctuary in New Haven, 80 kms north-east of Yuendumu. Tess is one of the earlier painters of Warlukurlangu Artists Aboriginal Corporation, an Aboriginal owned and governed art centre established in 1985 and located in Yuendumu. Tess first learnt art at school and when the Centre opened asked what she could paint. It was the Yari Pirlangu patterns and designs which she still incorporates into her Jukurpa stories today.

Group Exhibitions

- 2013 Parcours des Mondes, Arts d'Australie - Stéphane Jacob, Paris
- 2010 We Walk Together as Friends, 6th Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yani, Sydney NSW
- 2010 Colours of Yuendumu, Marianne Newman Gallery, NSW
- 2010 Jukurpa - Our Story. National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Tandanya, Adelaide, SA
- 2010 Desert Dreamings: Womens Paintings from Central Australia, Aboriginal Art Gallery, Rotterdam, Holland
- 2009 Desert Rain - Indigenous Fine Art, Noosa QLD



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- 2009 Centred Art, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 2008 Bush Tucker 08, Arereal Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2008 Les couleurs du désert australien, L'Antidote, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2008 Dreamings Past & Present, Nexus Gallery, Adelaide SA
- 2008 Warlukurlangu Artists, the art of Yuendumu, La Fontaine Centre of Contemporary Art, Bahrain UAE
- 2007 Contemporary Masters of the Central Desert, SF Fine Art, Sydney, NSW
- 2007 Desert Dreamings: earth + water, Artitja Fine Art, Perth, WA
- 2006 Paintings from the Fire Country, Birrung Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2006 Artists of Yuendumu, Australias Outback Gallery, NT & Outback Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney, NSW
- 1999 Burrinja Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria
- 1992 The Long Gallery, Hobart