



Short St. Gallery

Magda Nakamarra Curtis

Born 1983
Language Warlpiri
Region Nyirripi, NT



Magda Nakamarra Curtis was born in Alice Springs Hospital, and spent most of her childhood at Nyirripi, a remote Aboriginal community located 450 km north-west of Alice Springs in the NT of Australia. She attended her local school, then Yirara College, an Aboriginal boarding college in Alice Springs. Magda continued her studies at Bachelor College before travelling around the Kimberleys in WA. On her travels she stayed at Balgo, where she first started painting when she was 19 years old. Magda is married to Paul Nelson and now lives in Nyirripi. When Magda returned home to her family she began painting with the Warlukurlangu Artists in 2004. Her mother Kelly Napanangka Michaels, who lives in Yuendumu and her Aunty Alice Nampijinpa Henwood Michaels, who lives in Nyirripi also paint with Warlukurlangu Artists and have been painting there since 1987 and 1989 respectively. Warlukurlangu Artists Aboriginal Corporation is an Aboriginal owned and governed art centre located in Yuendumu. As a child living in Nyirripi, Magda would often watch her grandmothers and grandfathers paint and listen to them as they told her stories of their country. Her Grandparents have passed away since but her Big Sister Mary Anne Nampijinpa Michaels is like a Grandmother to her. She likes painting her Bib Sister's dreaming, Lappi Lappi Jukurpa, a rock hole in country belonging to her grandmother. Besides painting Lappi Lappi Jukurpa, Magda paints her Ngapa Jukurpa (Water Dreaming) Jajiidi Jukurpa (Western Quoll Dreaming) and Wardapi Jukurpa (Goanna Dreaming), Dreamings which relate directly to her land, its features and animals. When not painting Magda loves spending time hunting for goannas and traditional bush foods in the countryside around Nyirripi and Yuendumu.

Group Exhibitions

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

2009 'Tracks' - Bookerlowe Gallery, Texas, USA

2008 Warlukurlangu Wonders, Warlpiri Paintings from Yuendumu, Art Mob, Tasmania



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2008 Bush Tucker 08, Arereal Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2008 New Directions, Gecko Gallery, Broome, WA

2008 Dreamings Past & Present, Nexus Gallery, Adelaide SA

2008 Artists of Nyirripi & Yuendumu, Japangka Gallery, Fremantle, WA

2007 Nyirpi, New Work, Alison Kelly Gallery, Melbourne, VIC

2007 Shalom Gamarada Aboriginal Art Exhibition, Shalom College, Sydney, NSW

2005 'Water Dreamings from the Central Desert: Emerging Artists from Yuendumu', Walkabout Gallery, Sydney