



# Short St. Gallery

## Nancy Nyanyana Jackson

**Born** 1953  
**Language Group** Pitjantjatjara  
**Region** Western / Central Desert



### Biography

Nancy Nyanyana Jackson is an artist belonging to the Ngaanyatjarra language and cultural group. Nyanyana was born in the bush near the Western Australian and Northern Territory borders. She grew up travelling between rockholes with her parents, and occasionally visiting the missions at Warburton WA and Kaltukatjara (Docker River) NT. Once Warakurna was established in the 1970s, she moved there with her family, where she resides today.

Nyanyana is a highly skilled bush woman, Senior Law Woman, business-woman and well-respected artist.

Nyanyana first exhibited her fibre artwork at the Tjanpi Tjuta exhibition at Hogarth Gallery in Sydney NSW in 2008. She has followed this with a fibre artwork exhibition nearly every year since. Notable amongst these was her work in String Theory at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney NSW in 2013, and, most recently, the collaborative work Tutjurangara Massacre with fellow Tjanpi artist Judith Chambers. This work, a two-dimensional Tjanpi sculpture depicting a massacre of Ngaanyatjarra people in the 1930s near Tutjurangara (Circus Waters), was exhibited at Desert Mob 2018 in Alice Springs and was acquired by a private collector. The work garnered national and international interest and highlighted the little-known atrocity.

In addition to her fibre artwork, Nyanyana is a well-known painter, represented by Warakurna Artists, with whom she has exhibited numerous times since their inception in 2005. Important amongst her painting work is the collaborative painting Warakurna Women's Lasseter Story which is held in the State Collection at the National Gallery of Victoria.

In addition to her artistic prowess, Nyanyana has starred in a film Miripatjunku: Talking about telling leaf stories in the past for ICTV that discusses the importance of Ngaanyatjarra language and its continuance. Nyanyana is a kind, caring woman who tirelessly strives for her family and community's wellbeing. She epitomises what it means to be a Tjanpi artist and has inspired her daughters, daughters-in-law, granddaughters and nieces to create their own income and success through fibre artwork.

Tjanpi Desert Weavers (Tjanpi meaning 'wild grass') is an award-winning, Indigenous governed and directed social enterprise of the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (NPYWC). Tjanpi empowers over 400 women across a 350,000 square kilometre



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area of the tri-state region of NT, SA and WA to earn an income and remain in their communities on Country.

## Group Exhibitions

- 2020 Know My Name: Australian Women Artists of 1900 to Now, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT
- 2019 Tamaranthi at AGSA
- 2019 Tjanpi Desert Weavers, Biennale of Australian Art, Ballarat
- 2019 Ngalya/Together
- 2019 Revealed: Emerging Indigenous Artists of WA
- 2018 Desert Mob Exhibition
- 2018 Welcome to Paradise, Japingka Gallery
- 2018 Unity, Sullivan and Strumpf Group Exhibition with Tony Albert
- 2017 In Cahoots Exhibition, Fremantle Arts Centre
- 2017 Ngurra: Home in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands, South Australian Museum
- 2017 When the Sky Fell; Legacies of the 1967 Referendum, PICA
- 2017 Linden New Art, South Yarra, Victoria
- 2016 2016 Desert Mob Exhibition, Early Days Collaboration
- 2016 Tales from the Desert, Port Hedland Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland WA
- 2015 Palya: Martumili Artists, Tjarliri Art and Warakurna Artists of Western Australia
- 2015 Tunbridge Gallery, Perth, Australia
- 2014 Bush Life, Nomad Art Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2013 Revealed Emerging Aboriginal Artists from Western Australia 2013. Gallery Central. Perth
- 2013 String Theory, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney NSW
- 2013 Desert Boards – Warakurna, Wanam & Kayili. Raft Artspace, Alice Springs
- 2013 Fingers and Petals - The Handmade Flower Show, The Gallery Edenbrook WA
- 2012 Way Out West, Western Desert Mob Group Show. Raft Artspace, Alice Springs
- 2012 Way Out West. Raft Artspace, Alice Springs
- 2012 Warakurna: All the Stories Got into our Minds and Eyes. Focus Gallery, National Museum of Australia. Canberra
- 2011 History Paintings Exhibition. Outstation - Art from art centres. Darwin NT
- 2011 "Warakurna Artists", Galerie Kungka and IDAIA, Maison des Arts Plastiques Rhône-Alpes, Lyon, France; Maison des Arts Contemporains, Pérouges, France
- 2010 Tjukurpa Kutjulpitolpinkingkatja Artistspa Kuwarrinkatja - Stories from the past, artists from today. Outstation Gallery Darwin
- 2010 Recent Works from Warakurna Artists and Tjanpi Desert Weavers, Short Street Gallery, Broome
- 2010 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair



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- 2009 Printingpa Ngaanya Yanku Kayili, Warakurna Artist's paintings travelling North. Outstation Gallery, Darwin
- 2009 26th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2009 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
- 2008 Tjanpi Tjuta, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
- 2007 Kutju - One, Western Desert Mob Ngaanyatjarra Lands Regional Exhibition, Lawrence Wilson Gallery, Perth
- 2007 Tjukurpa Mularpa Waylkumunu Pirmi, Lots of Good True Stories, Randell Lane Fine Art Gallery, Perth
- 2007 Desert Mob, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs NT
- 2007 Power and Beauty - Indigenous Art Now. Heide Museum of Contemporary Art, Melbourne
- 2007 Palyaratju Pirtja Puru Tjanpi Tjarra Puli Yuliyala –We are making paintings and tjanpi in Puli Yuliyala New paintings and weavings from Warakurna Artists and Tjanpi Desert Weavers. Alcaston Gallery
- 2006 Rawa-latju Nintirringkultatjaku, Knowing is the Future, Warakurna Artists Group Exhibition, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2006 Pukurpatulatju Palyara Pirtja 'We are happy to make painting', Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth
- 2006 Tjukurpa Tjarralatju Palyara Mularpa - We paint really strong stories. Warakurna Artists Group Exhibition, Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney
- 2006 23rd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award (NATSIAA)
- 2005 Desert Mob, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2004 Fibre Sculpture, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne

## Collections

Artbank  
Kungkarrangkalpa (Collaborative Work), National Gallery of Australia  
Lagerberg Swift Collection  
National Museum of Australia  
The Kelton Foundation  
The National Gallery of Victoria

## Bibliography

- 2013 Ngaanyatjarra - Art of the Lands. Ed. Tim Acker and John Carty. UWA Press
- 2007 Power and Beauty - Indigenous Art Now. Heide Museum of Modern Art. Exhibition catalogue
- 2005 Review. Desert Mob 2005 exhibition. Lines shimmer into shape by Nicholas Rowthwell, The Australian, 13 September 2005 The Australian, 13 September 2005