



Short St. Gallery



Marjorie Williams

Born 1953
Language Group Western Arrernte & Pintupi
Region Central Australia

Biography

Marjorie was born in Alice Springs. Her mother was from Hermannsburg from the Driffen family. Her father was Musty Syddick, a Central Australian man from Aboriginal and Afghan cameleer origins. Marjorie married Brian Williams, a member of the Hermannsburg Williams family. He grew unwell and so the couple moved into Alice Springs so he could access medical support. He passed away in 2005, and Marjorie remained in Alice Springs. She has four children, grandchildren and a great grandchild here in Alice Springs to keep her busy. Marjorie has painted for herself in the past after starting in Hermannsburg before moving to Alice Springs. She has also painted with Ngurratjuta Many Hands Art Centre before they dedicated themselves to watercolourists.

As a senior Western Arrernte woman, she is strong in her commitment to Western Arrernte Women's Law. She is also committed to the Lutheran faith of the former Mission of Hermannsburg Community in Ntaria, now the Finke River Mission, based in Alice Springs. Marjorie sings regularly in the Central Australian Women's Choir, and has travelled internationally to perform, Marjorie has undertaken translation work, being fluent and literate in both Western Arrernte and English.

Marjorie paints in a range of styles, figurative and abstract, with the imagery she paints strongly relating to her Country, the Country of her mother, Ntaria. Many of Marjorie's artworks have strong graphical elements, and she paints about water, and women's activities such as collecting water, and dancing, bush tucker species,



Short St. Gallery

particularly echidna. She also paints memories from her early life spent between Iwupataka [Jay Creek Reserve] and Ntaria. The narratives in her stories and the rich palettes she selects means her works are incredibly popular.

Group Exhibitions

- 2024 Town Camp, Bush Camp – Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2022 Town Camp Stories – Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2021 We Belong To This Country, We Look After This Country – Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2020 Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs NT Desert Mob
- 2019 Megafauna Centre, Alice Springs Tangentyere Artists and Yarrenyty Arltere Artists, Artists in Museums, Artback
- 2019 Arrentye Mamu - Monster Monster, New Works by Tangentyere Artists and Yarrenyty Arltere Artists – Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT
- 2018 Tangentyere Artists Christmas Show – Hidden Valley, Yarrenyty Arltere, and Tangentyere Artists, Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT
- 2018 Royals at the Res: Group Show – The Residency, Alice Springs NT
- 2018 Tarnanthi Art Fair – Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide SA
- 2018 Tjina Mob: Next Door. Many Hands, Tangentyere and Yarrenyty Arltere Artists
- Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT
- 2017 Tangentyere Artists Christmas – Tangentyere Artists Gallery, Alice Springs NT Exhibition
- 2017 Tarnanthi Festival Art Fair – Tandanya Cultural Centre Adelaide SA
- 2017 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair – Darwin Convention Centre Darwin NT
- 2017 Together Our Stories Are Stronger – Merricks General Wine Store
- 2017 Tangentyere Artists New Works – Tangentyere Artists Gallery Alice Springs NT

Bibliography

- 2018 Finnane, Kieran, Making good our dreams of home - Review, Alice Springs News Online,
<http://www.alicespringsnews.com.au/2018/07/20/making-good-our-dreams-of-home/> Posted: July 20, 2018