



Short St. Gallery

Narelle Holland

Born 1953
Language Group Pitjantjatjara
Region Western / Central Desert



Biography

Narelle Holland is a long standing NPY Women's Council member and has been a director in past years representing the communities in the Ngaanyatjarra lands of WA. She is a generous and gentle woman who is an important cultural leader in her community. Narelle lives in Blackstone Community in WA with her family. She is a strong weaver and sculpture whose creations always have a lot of colour and texture incorporated into their design.

Tjanpi (meaning 'dry grass') evolved from a series of basket weaving workshops held on remote communities in the Western Desert by the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council in 1995. Building on traditions of using fibre for medicinal, ceremonial and daily purposes, women took easily to making coiled baskets. These new-found skills were shared with relations on neighbouring communities and weaving quickly spread. Today over 400 women across 28 communities are making baskets and sculptures out of grass and working with fibre in this way is firmly embedded in Western and Central desert culture. While out collecting desert grasses for their fibre art, women visit sacred sites and traditional homelands, hunt and gather food for their families and teach their children about country.

Tjanpi Desert Weavers is Aboriginal owned and is governed by Aboriginal directors. It is an arts business but also a social enterprise that provides numerous social and cultural benefits and services to weavers and their families. Tjanpi's philosophy is to keep culture strong, maintain links with country and provide meaningful employment to the keepers and teachers of the desert weaving business.

Group Exhibitions

2014	The Colours of Country, Metropolis Gallery, Geelong VIC
2013	Revealed, Gallery Central, Perth WA
2010	Arrweketye areyele ayeye ileme, Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs