

Short St. Gallery

Penny K Lyons



Born 1932
Region Fitzroy/West Kimberley
Language Walmajarri/Juwaliny

Biography

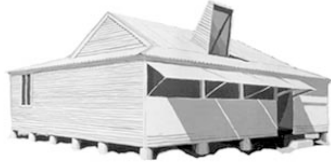
Yangkarni, of the Walmajarri language group was born at Wanywurtu under a tutujarti [desert walnut] tree. She grew up there with her family of one father, two mothers, one brother and two sisters. There is a rock hole with spring water at Wanywurtu where Yangkarni remembers going walkabout for goanna and pussycat [feral cat].

Yangkarni's family and other groups migrated north to the cattle station country surrounding the Fitzroy Valley. When they left the desert she was a girl in her early teens. During the journey she lost her mother's sister, then her father and mother. Yangkarni became distressed about losing her parents and wanted to keep looking for them. Her brother kumanjayi [deceased] Pijaju got angry with her and left Yangkarni and her little sister at nearby Milidjidee and kept going.

Yangkarni's beautiful paintings show the traditional waterholes and hunting grounds of the Great Sandy Desert where she and her family lived up until the early 1950s. Mapping the land through knowledge and stories from where she was born. Vibrant colours make up dots and patterns to describe traveling tales, sometimes walking long distances over sand hills to reach important waterholes.

Group Exhibitions

2020 Mangkaja Perspex, Aboriginal Contemporary, Sydney



Short St. Gallery

- 2018 Desert Ladies, Salon Project Space, Darwin, NT
- 2016 Gimme Shelter - A Survey Show from the Artists of Fitzroy Valley, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2009 Mangkaja Artists 60 x 60 , Randell Lane Fine Art, WA
- 2009 Sharing Difference on Common Ground, Holmes a Court Gallery, Perth, WA
- 2009 Senior Artists from Fitzroy Crossing, Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
- 2009 Mangkaja Survey Show, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2009 Emerging and re-emerging, Outstation, Darwin, NT
- 2009 My Country - Paintings from Yyili and Fitzroy Crossing, Bridget McDonnell Gallery, Melbourne, NSW
- 2008 Wet n'Wild, Artkeich, Freiburg, Germany
- 2008 Through Our Eyes - The Canning Stock Route, Port Hedland Courthouse Gallery, WA
- 2008 Women on Country, Suzanne O'Donell Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
- 2008 Waterholes and Bush Tucker, Bridget McDonald Hampton Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2008 Shalom Gamarada, Caspary Conference Centre, University of NSW
- 2007 Bendi Lango, the Indigenous Scholarship Fund, Sydney, NSW
- 2007 Living Water - Mangkaja Artists WA, Randell Lane Fine Art, Melbourne, VIC

Public Art

- 2008 Fitzroy Valley Education Centre
- 2008 Fitzroy Crossing Hospital

Collections

National Gallery of Victoria
National Museum of Australia
Fitzroy Crossing High School
Fitzroy Crossing Hospital

Publications

- 2009 Kimberley Aboriginal Artists, Sharing Difference on Common Ground
- 2009 FORM and the National Museum of Australia, Canning Stock Route Project: Ngurra Kuju Walyja, One Country One People
- 2008 Exhibition Catalogue, Through Our Eyes: The Canning Stock Route Project
- 2005 Exhibition Catalogue, ReDot Gallery, Singapore Surprise; Cory and Friends
- 2004 National Gallery of Victoria, Colour Power: Aboriginal Art Post 1984
- 2000 Oxford University Press & ANU, Oxford Companion to Aboriginal Art & Culture/Ngurra Entry