



Short St. Gallery

Elaine Woods

Birth 1969
Language Group Pitjantjatjara
Region APY Lands



Biography

Elaine regularly travels out bush with her mother and daughters to collect punu (wood for artifact making) and spinifex, bush medicines, bush foods and minkulpa a highly prized native tobacco.

Her mother Maringka is a master at collecting maku (edible grubs that live in the roots of certain trees). Using a crowbar which has been flattened and sharpened on one end and small spade she hits the surface of the ground listening and feeling for the difference that indicates a swollen root and a maku inside. She digs out the root carefully and using the sharpened crow bar breaks it open to reveal a big fat white grub, which is put into a container. Once there are enough maku for a feed a fire is made to cook the grubs.

Elaine now lives in Kanpi with her family. She attended the skills development workshop in Kanpi in October 2014 and learned to make tjampi sculptures for the first time.

Elaine Woods was born at Docker River in 1969. Elaine grew up at Irruntji later moving south to the Kalgoorlie and Esperance areas. During her child rearing years Elaine saw the birth and then rapid evolution of the art movement in the Pitjantjatjara lands. In particular, she was lucky to see and be a party to her mother, Maringka Baker's, development into one of our most successful and sought after Indigenous artists. Maringka, together with Elaine's uncle, the great Jimmy Baker, were the feature artists at the Australia National Gallery's Culture Warriors Triennial.

Elaine took up painting in 2010 and is rapidly carving out her own niche amongst Indigenous art's up and coming artists. Elaine has four daughters, Julie Woods, Janice Woods, Venita Woods and Casseyanne Woods.

Solo Exhibitions

2009 Publication – Cover – Annual Resources Industry Gala Dinner, South Australian Resources and Energy Investment Conference



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Group Exhibitions

2026	Heatwave, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2023	Wiru Tjukurpa - Beautiful Law Story, Short St Gallery, Broome WA
2018	Tjungu Palya – Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2016	Pampa Mara Tjanpi – Tandanya Cultural Institute
2009	Kulini Ngura – Knowing Country – Short St Gallery, Broome, WA