



Nyarapayi Giles

c. 1940 - 2019, Ngaanyatjarra, Australia

BIOGRAPHY:

Nyarapayi Giles is one of the respected elders of Tjukurla Community. Nyarapayi was born in the Gibson Desert at an important cultural site called 'Karrku'. It is this site and the associated Tjukurrpa that inspires Nyarapayi's powerful and unique paintings.

Nyarapayi spent her youth living the traditional nomadic life of her people until her family were moved from their land to settle in missions in the 1960s. Nyarapayi's knowledge of the Inma (ceremonies) and Tjukurrpa (dreaming stories) associated with the country here is extensive. Nyarapayi settled in Tjukurla when the community was first established in the 1980s. Nyarapayi's paintings depict a site called 'Warmarungu' near Karku, her birthplace. This is where the ochres are collected for ceremonial use. In the dreaming times many emus went down into the rockholes and some took the form of trees. The ochre is excavated in a special way using a stick, and Nyarapayi paints the emu spirits which are released during this ceremony to again take physical form. Her paintings show the travels of the emus in the dreaming times and the rock holes they stopped at.

Nyarapayi has gained recognition on as a key artist amongst her peers in the Contemporary Indigenous Art movement. Her works are collected by collectors and institutions in Australia and internationally including the British Museum, National Gallery of Victoria, Patrick Corrigan Collection, W & V McGeoch Collection and Sir Charles Gairdner Collection. She was a finalist for the prestigious Telstra Prize, was awarded the Inaugural Sir Charles Gairdner Award and her work is on permanent exhibition on at the Queensland Art Gallery.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 2008 Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth
- 2007 Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth

GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2021 Tjarlirli Rocks, JGM Gallery, London, UK
- 2020 Tjukurla Masters - Yaama Ganu, Australia
- 2020 Rawa Titungarala - Artsource WA, Australia
- 2020 I Know My Country - Artitja Fine Art Gallery WA, Australia

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- 2020 MERRY-GO-ROUND, JGM Gallery, London, UK
- 2019 The Womens Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2019 Yamma Ganu, Moree NSW, Australia
- 2018 Raft Artspace, Summer Salon, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2018 Desert Mob 2018, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2018 Salon Des Refuses, CDU, Darwin, Australia
- 2018 Geelong Contemporary Art Prize, Finalist, Geelong, Australia
- 2018 Albany Art Prize, Finalist, Albany, Australia
- 2018 The Womens Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2017 Ng Salon, Tarnanthi Festival, RAFT Artspace & Hanging Valley, Praxis Gallery, Australia
- 2017 Ngurra: Home on the Ngaanyatjarra Lands, South Australia Museum Tarnanthi, Australia
- 2017 Port Hedland Art Award - Finalist, Australia
- 2017 Desert Mob 2017, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2017 Mynyma Mayatja, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2017 NATSIAA Finalist 2017, Museum & Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia
- 2017 Tjukurla Tjukurrpa, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney, Australia
- 2017 The Womens Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2017 Wala Wingki, Raft South, Horbart, Australia
- 2016 Whos Afraid of Colour, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
- 2016 Desert Mob 2016, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2016 Salon Des Refuses, CDU, Darwin, Australia
- 2016 Port Hedland Award Finalist, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, Australia
- 2016 Power, Colour. Story, Harvey Art Projects, USA
- 2016 Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney, Australia
- 2016 Touring Exhibition, Art Kelch, Germany
- 2016 Palya, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2015 Tarnanthi Festival - Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia
- 2015 Tunbridge Gallery, Perth, Australia
- 2015 Desert Mob 2015, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2015 Port Hedland Award Finalist, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, Australia
- 2015 NATSIAA Finalist 2015 - Museum & Gallery of Northern Territory, Australia
- 2015 Recent Works from Yjarlirli Art, RAFT Artspace, Australia
- 2015 Western Desert Mob, Paintings from Tjarlirli and Warakurna, Harvey Arts Projects, US
- 2014 Warakurna Art and Tjarlirli Art, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Australia
- 2014 Salon Des Refuse, Outstation Gallery, Australia
- 2014 Desert Mob 2014, Australia
- 2014 Our Home in Colour, Outstation Gallery, Australia
- 2014 Living Spirit, Marshall Arts, Australia
- 2013 The Wild ones, RAFT Artspace, Australia
- 2013 Desert Mob 2013, Australia
- 2013 Ngaanpurinytjulahu Tirtu Palyapayi 'We always do it like this', Harvey Art Projects USA
- 2013 Salon des Refuses, Outstation Gallery, Australia
- 2013 Tjarlirli Art: in Profile, Marshall Arts, Australia

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- 2012 Way out West, RAFT Artspace, Australia
- 2011 Watch Me and Learn, Aboriginal and Pacific Art Sydney, Australia
- 2011 Desert mob 2012, Australia
- 2010 Mora Galleries, Melbourne, Australia
- 2010 Merenda Fine Art, Fremantle, Australia
- 2009 Western Desert Mob Print Show, Nomad, Darwin, Australia
- 2009 Walka Putitja, Short St Gallery, Broome, Australia
- 2009 Chapman Gallery, Canberra, Australia
- 2009 Desert Mob, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2009 Seniors and Emerging, Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River, Australia
- 2009 Tjukurpa pulkajarra, South Australian Museum, Adelaide, Australia
- 2008 Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, Australia
- 2007 National Australian Indigenous Art Prize, Australia
- 2007 Big County, Gondwana Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2007 William Mora Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2007 Sir Charles Gairdner Art Prize, Australia
- 2005 Meeniyan Gallery, Meeniyan VIC, Australia
- 2004 Fibre Sculpture, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

COLLECTIONS:

Araluen Centre Collection
British museum Collection
City of Joondalup Collection
Harriett and Richard England Collection
Patrick Corrigan Collection
Sir Charles Gairdner Collection
Swift-Lagerburg Collection
W&V McGeoch
Queensland Art Gallery Collection
Charles Darwin University Collection
Sims Dickson Collection
National Gallery of Victoria Collection
Acquired by Araluen Cultural Centre 2012
Acquired by Araluen Cultural Centre 2014
South Australia Museum
HSH Prince Albert II Monaco Collection

AWARDS:

2018 Finalist, Geelong Contemporary Art Prize, Geelong

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- 2018 Finalist, Albany Art Prize
- 2017 Finalist, NAATSIA, MAGNT, Darwin, NT
- 2017 Finalist, Port Hedland Art Award
- 2015 NATSIAA Finalist 2015 - Museum & Gallery of Northern Territory

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- 2012 Acquired by Aruluen Cultural Centre at Desert Mob 2012
- 2010 Contemporary Aboriginal Art - McCulloch and McCulloch

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