



Tjawina Porter

Born 1931. Died in 2024, Papunya, Northern Territory, Australia.

BIOGRAPHY

Tjawina Porter grew up in the desert near Yumara where she lived the traditional nomadic lifestyle with her family. After the death of her father, her family moved to the then newly established government settlement of Papunya. Porter lived in Tjukurla, a remote Indigenous community in the Western Desert of Australia which is close to her birth place. She was a skilled craftsperson, and was well known for her skills as a traditional basket weaver and carver of punu before becoming recognised for her exceptional painting skills.

Her artworks represent the traditional homelands associated with her people's ancestral heritage. The iconography depicts sand dunes known as "tali" and rock escarpments known as "puli", as well as waterholes and food sources. Her designs are often used in body art during traditional corroborees. The artworks depict the physical markings that the ancient ancestors have provided to give evidence of their activities during the time of creation. Porter's artworks are rich in symbolism and fine detail, with brushwork and dots travelling steadily across the canvas to reveal the undulating forms of her country. Her extensive cultural and topographical knowledge are evident in her paintings, which evoke the movement and energy of desert landscapes. In the years that Porter had painted she has gained worldwide recognition, participating in many national and international group exhibitions. Her works are represented in private and public collections in Australia and overseas.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2010 *Tjawina Porter Nampitjinpa*, Harvey Galleries, New South Wales, Australia

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Colour Power 22*, JGM Gallery, London, United Kingdom
 - 2021 *Tjarliri Rocks*, JGM Gallery, London, United Kingdom
 - 2020 *Desert Mob 2020*, Alice Springs, Australia
 - 2017 *Ng Salon*, Tarnanthi Festival, Raft Artspace & Hanging Valley, Praxis Gallery, Australia
 - 2017 *Ngurra: Home on the Ngaanyatjarra lands*, South Australia Museum, Australia
 - 2017 *Residency*, Wintjiri Gallery, Australia
 - 2016 *Residency*, Wintjiri Gallery, Australia
 - 2015 Tunbridge Gallery, Australia
 - 2015 Wintjiri Gallery, Australia
 - 2014 *Desert Mob 2014*, Australia
 - 2014 *Our Home in Colour*, Outstation Gallery, Australia
 - 2012 *Watch Me and Learn*, Aboriginal and Pacific Arts Sydney, Australia
 - 2011 *Desert Mob Exhibition*, Araluen Arts Centre Alice Springs, Australia
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COLLECTIONS

Australia National University Collection

JGM GALLERY

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