



# Mary Gibson

Born 1952, Gibson Desert, Western Australia, Australia.

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## BIOGRAPHY

Mary Gibson was born at 'Kuluwarri' rockhole, which lies between Tjukurla and Patjarr (Karliywara) in the Gibson Desert. She spent many of her childhood years moving through the Western Desert region with her mother, who taught her traditional practices of hunting, gathering, and preparing bush tucker. Their travels took them to 'Puyurr', 'Tuwa', 'Kurlkurta', and Tjarlirli Rockhole, years before the Tjukurla Community was established nearby. She has spoken of travelling to 'Kayilli' (Patjarra) and then onto Port Headland for a holiday, where her husband passed away. Residing in Papunya and Kaltukatjara (Docker River) for some years, Gibson relocated to Tjukurla in 1989 when the Outstation movement had gained momentum. She was one of the first artists to paint at the Tjarlirli art centre when it was established in 2006 and now works between Tjukurla and Kaltukatjara.

Gibson's exceptional knowledge of the region she has inhabited her entire life is exemplified in her striking and visually assertive canvases. Painting her Country, 'Kurlkurta', Gibson's works evidence her treatment of painting not as a medium for expression alone, but as an object replicating the desert landscape also. Starting with a blacked out backdrop, she distributes sweeping, conjunctive lines in concentric formations over this base, then creating separation between them with dot work which contrasts in colour. The effect is almost like that of Huichol beading - mesmeric radials which seem to be ever-expanding before the eyes. Her paintings' recurring motifs concern the intersection between 'women's business', food and the diverse landscape of her Country, namely dramatic ranges, sand dunes, rockholes, soakwaters, creeks, saltlakes, and claypans.

Gibson is often referenced in partnership with her son, Bob Gibson, who - sharing in his mother's artistic sensibilities - has become one of Tjarlirli's most celebrated artists.

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## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 *Ngurra*, JGM Gallery, London, United Kingdom
  - 2007 *UWA Perth International Arts Festival*, Perth, Western Australia, Australia
  - 2007 *Power & Beauty: Indigenous Art Now*, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Bulleen, Victoria, Australia
  - 2007 *Western Desert Mob: Kutju – One*, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, University of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia, Australia
  - 2007 *Patjarr Painters*, Short St Gallery, Broome, Western Australia, Australia
  - 2006 *Desert Mob*, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
  - 2006 *Senior Kayili Artists*, Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
  - 2006 *Patjarr survey show of recent work from Gibson Desert*, Short St Gallery, Broome, Western Australia, Australia
  - 2006 *Kayili Artists, New Works*, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
  - 2005 *Desert Mob*, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
  - 2005 *Kayili Artists*, Walkumunu, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
  - 2003 *Nampa Kuwarrinkatja*, Tjulyuru Regional Gallery, Warburton, Western Australia, Australia
  - 2000 *Aboriginal and Pacific Arts*, on display between 1995- 2003, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
  - 1995 *Artplace*, on display between 1995-2003, Perth, Western Australia, Australia
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## COLLECTIONS

Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia  
Thomas Vroom Collection, Utrecht, The Netherlands  
Vroom Collection, Germany  
Lagerburg Swift Collection,  
Kelton Foundation Collection

## JGM GALLERY

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