



Katjarra Butler

Born in 1946, Tjukurla, Australia.

BIOGRAPHY

Katjarra Butler is renowned for her wide luscious brush strokes and innovative style. Her artistic process, often involving the application of numerous layers of paint, builds a fullness and depth distinctive in her work. Butler combines traditional symbols in a highly contemporary rendering of Ngaanyatjarra stories, culture, and landscape.

Butler grew up in the bush with her extended family group. It was in 1966 that they were transported by truck to the settlement of Papunya. She often paints dreamings of the site Kuurrmankutja and Marrapirnti. Butler was the second wife to Ananjari Tjakamarra, one of the founding painters at Papunya.

Butler was born near Tjukurla in Western Australia, quite close to Kurlkurta and Puurrungu at a place called Kuun (the name for yellow ochre), where there is a waterhole. There is also a place very close to Kuun that Butler refers to as her home, and is the site of one of her “Tjukurpa’s” or Dreamings, the subject of many of her paintings. It is called Kuurrmankutja. This place is home, to the two Kuniya (python) Dreamings. The other Dreaming that she paints is Marrapinti.

Butler’s paintings depict “Tali” sandhills,” Puli” rocks & “Kungka” women painting and preparing for ceremonies. Many of her works include “Kampurrarpa” or bush raisin. Her work has a distinct rawness, evoking the true feel of a desert sand mosaic.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Tjarlirli Rocks*, JGM Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2020 *MERRY-GO-ROUND*, JGM Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2020 *New Aquisitions*, National Museum of Australia, Australia
- 2020 *Tjukurrpalampatju - Our stories*, Art Mob, Hobart, Australia
- 2020 *Tjukurla Masters*, Yaama Ganu, Moree New South Wales, Australia
- 2020 *Salon des Refuses*, Charles Darwin Univeristy Art Gallery, Darwin, Australia
- 2020 *London Art Fair*, JGM Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2020 *Group Women’s Show*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2019 *Desert Mob 2019*, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2019 *Group Womens Show*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2019 *Adazzle*, JGM Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2018 *Group show*, Hanging Valley Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2018 *Summer Salon*, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2018 *Desert Mob 2018*, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2018 *The Womens Show*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2017 *Summer Salon*, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2017 *Ng Salon*, Tarnanthi Fetsival, Raft Artspace & Hanging Valley, Praxis Gallery, Australia
- 2017 *Ngurra: Home on the Ngaanyatjarra lands*, South Australia Museum, Tarnanthi, Australia
- 2017 *Desert Mob 2017*, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2017 *Salon Des Refuses*, Charles Darwin University, Darwin, Australia
- 2017 *Minyma Mayatja*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2017 *Tjukurla Tjukurrrpa*, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney, Australia
- 2017 *The Womens Show*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2017 *Wala Wingki*, Raft South, Hobart, Australia

- 2016 *Whos Afraid of Colour?*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
2016 *Power. Colour. Story*, Harvey Art Projects, Idaho, United States
2016 *Sag mir wo die Punkte sind...*, ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
2016 *Sehverlust und Sinneslust*, ARTKELCH, Germany
2016 *art Karlsruhe 2016*, ARTKELCH @ art Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe, Germany
2016 *PRO COMMUNITY – Ngaanyatjarra Lands*, Touring exhibition, ARTKELCH, Germany
2015 *Palya*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
2015 *Recent Works from Tjarlirli Art*, RAFT Artspace, Australia
2015 *Western Desert Mob- Paintings from Tjarlirli and Warakurna*, Harvey Art Projects, Idaho, United States
2014 *Warakurna Artists and Tjarlirli Art*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Australia
2014 *Our Home in Colour*, Outstation, Australia
2013 *The Wild Ones*, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, Australia
2013 *DesertMob 2013*, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
2013 Harvey Arts Projects USA, Sun Valley, Australia
2013 *Tjarlirli Art: In Profile*, Marshall Arts, Australia
2012 *Desert Mob 2012*, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs Northern Territory, Australia
2011 *Tjarlirli Artists*, William Mora Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
2010 Short Street Gallery, Broome, Australia
2010 *Group Exhibition*, Chapman Gallery, Canberra, Australia
2010 *DesertMob 2010*, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
2010 *Seniors and Emerging*, Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River, Australia
2010 *Western Desert Mob Print Show*, Nomad, Darwin, Australia
2009 *Group Exhibition*, Randall Lane Fine Art, Perth, Australia
2008 *Group Exhibition*, William Mora Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
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AWARDS AND PRIZES

- 2018 *Alice Art Prize*, Alice Springs - Finalist
2018 *Port Headland Art Prize* - Finalist
2018 *Albany Art Prize* - Finalist
2017 *Port Hedland Art Award* - Finalist
2016 *Wyndham Art Prize* - Winner
2010 *National Australian Indigenous Art Award*, Darwin, Australia
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COLLECTIONS

Araluen Arts Centre Collection
Lepley Collection
National Gallery of Victoria
Sims Dickson Collection
South Australian Museum
W&V McGeoch Collection
Wyndum City Council Collection
Australian Catholic University Collection
National Museum of Australia
Museum Fünf Kontinente, München, Germany

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2008 Johnson, V. 2008, *Lives of the Papunya Tula Artists*, IAD Press, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia
2012 *Art of the Lands* - Tim Acker, John Carty South Australian Museum

