

GANNON HOUSE GALLERY

Patrick Tjungarrayi Olodoodo

Place of Birth: Yalangerri, WA
Date of Birth: c.1940
Area: Balgo/ Kiwikurra
Language: Manyjiljyjarra, Kukatja

Artist Information

Patrick Tjungarrayi was born at Yalangerri near Jupiter Well, Patrick Tjungarrayi walked from his traditional country into the old Balgo Mission and worked on the housing at the new Balgo site. He was involved in building the stone houses and the church in which he married Miriam Olodoodi.

Patrick Tjungarrayi is a senior law man and is responsible for upholding the traditional ceremonies for the country around Balgo, Kiriwrrkurra and Kintore in the western desert. He now lives between the Pintupi community of Kintore, NT and WA community of Balgo - a community of greatly mixed language groups.

Tjungarrayi began painting in 1986 with works included in the major survey exhibition *Papunya Tula: Genesis and Genius* shown at the Art Gallery of NSW. His works have attracted strong interest for their unique combination of Kiwirrkura and Balgo styles and highly distinctive colours. With the luminescent combination of oranges, yellows and an unusual blueish violet he creates geometric patterns of thin panels of squared arches, concentric circles and waves that drift across the canvas. The optical, geometric patterns of the Kiwirrkura style are given a new life by the brilliant colouration and denser application of paint, more often seen in the work of Balgo artists. Tjungarrayi's paintings relate to the events of the Tingari sites from which he has inherited his dreaming stories and the travels of these men and the designs of ceremonies associated with the Wanawarra (rainbow snake) that lived in that area.

In more recent times Tjungarrayi has become a great advocate for the health and well being of the residents of the western desert communities he inhabits and he was instrumental in providing mobile dialysis units for the remote communities. His work, both artistic and in health, has been featured in a book by anthropologist and art historian, John Carty.



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Collections

Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Holmes a' Court Collection
South Australian Museum, Adelaide
Artbank

2002 Thornquest Gallery, Gold Coast

2002 Fremantle Art Centre, Perth

2002 Coomalie Cultural Centre, Batchelor

2002 Art Mob Aboriginal Fine Art, Tasmania

2001 Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne

2001 Palm Beach, Florida, USA

2001 Chapman Gallery, Canberra

2001 Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs

2000 Subiaco, Western Australia

2000 Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney 2000 , Sydney

1999 Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, Darwin

Awards

Western Australia's Indigenous Art Award

