

Walangkura Napanangka

Date of Birth:	c.1940-2014
Place of Birth:	Tjiturulnga
Area:	Central Desert Kintore
Community:	Kintore/ Kiwikurra
Subject:	Womens Ceremony
People:	Pintupi

Artist Information

Walangkura Napanangka was born in 1946 at Tjiturulnga, west of Walungurru (Kintore) in the far west of the Northern Territory. Her parents were Inyuwa Nampitjinpa and Tutuma Tjapangati, who were also artists. Her sister Pirrmangka Napanangka (now deceased) was also a well known artist.

Her family was among a group of Pintupi people who made their way to the Ikuntji settlement (Haasts Bluff) in 1956. They walked hundreds of kilometres from west of the salt lake of Karrkurutinjinya (Lake Macdonald) to gain access to the food and water at the settlement. The family returned to their home country community of Walungurru (Kintore) in 1981.

Walangkura began her artistic career in 1995 by participating in the collaborative canvas project 'Minyma Tjukurrpa' between the Kintore and Haasts Bluff communities. She subsequently joined and began painting with Papunya Tula Artists in 1996. Until she passed in 2014 she lived at Kiwikurra with her husband and fellow artist Johnny Yungut Tjupurrula.



Walangkura Napanangka

Information About the Artwork

In her works Walangkura depicts signs associated with the rockhole and cave sites of Tjintjintjin, just to the west of the Kintore community in the Western Desert.

The shapes in the painting depict the geographical features in the area through which an old woman, Kutungka Napanangka, passed during her travels from Malparinga in the north-west. At this site, Kutungka knew of an ancestral kunai (snake) that lived underground. She proceeded to dig a hole in search of kunai, eventually locating and killing it. She then cooked it and ate it before continuing her travels east to Muruntji, south west of Liebig.

At Muruntji, she was accosted by a group of boys, She chased them and caught all but the culprit who managed to escape. She killed the others and cooked them in a fire. She then traveled to Kaltarra where she entered the earth.

Collections

Aboriginal Art Museum, The Netherlands.
National Art Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Gabrielle Pizzi Collection, Melbourne.
The Kelton Foundation, USA.
Museums and Art Galleries of Northern Territory, Darwin



Walangkura Napanangka

Individual Exhibitions:

- 2004 - Walangkura Napanangka, Utopia Art Sydney.
- 2003 - Walangkura Napanangka: Recent Paintings, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne. Group Exhibitions:
- 2005 - Papunya Tula Artists, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Victoria;
Luminus: selected works from the Helen Read Collection, touring;
Papunya Tula Artists - new work for a new space, Utopia Art Sydney.
- 2004 - Pintupi Art 2004, Tony Bond Aboriginal Art Dealer, Adelaide, South Australia;
All About Papunya, Chapman Gallery Canberra, Australian Capital Territory;
The Inner And The Outer, Stadtgalerie Bamberg, Villa Dessauer, Bamberg, Germany;
Mythology and Reality - Contemporary Aboriginal Desert Art from the Gabrielle Pizzi Collection, Heidi Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne;
21st Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Darwin, Northern Territory;
EXPLAINED, A closer look at Aboriginal art, Aboriginal Art Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands;
Ma Yungu/Pass It On, Framed Gallery, Darwin, Northern Territory;
Melbourne Art Fair 2004, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne;
Pintupi Artists, Papunya Tula Artists, Alice Springs, Northern Territory;
Mythology & Reality, Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, Victoria.
- 2003 - Pintupi Art 2003, Tony Bond Aboriginal Art Dealer, Adelaide, South Australia;
Recent Paintings By The Women Artists Of Kintore And Kiwirrkura, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne; Aboriginal Art 2003, Scott Livesey Art Dealer, Melbourne, Victoria;
Pintupi Art From The Western Desert, Indigenart, Perth, Western Australia;
Masterpieces From The Western Desert, Gavin Graham Gallery, London, United Kingdom;
Papunya Tula Artists - A Gift From The Desert, Utopia Art Sydney, New South Wales;
Pintupi Artists, Papunya Tula Artists, Alice Springs, Northern Territory.
Melbourne Art Fair 2002, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne.
- 2002 - Paintings From Our Country, Tony Bond Aboriginal Art Dealer, Adelaide, South Australia;
Aboriginal Art 2002, Scott Livesey Art Dealer, Melbourne;
William Mora Galleries, Melbourne;
Pintupi Mens' and Womens' Stories, Indigenart, Perth;
Art Born Of The Western Desert, Framed Gallery, Darwin, Northern Territory;
Saluting Papunya, Chapman Gallery, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory; Pintupi Artists, Papunya Tula Artists, Alice Springs, Northern Territory;
- 2001 - Size Doesn't Matter - Kintore Painting 1997-2001, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne;
Art of the Pintupi, Tony Bond Aboriginal Art Dealer, Adelaide, South Australia;
Six Painters From Papunya Tula Artists, Utopia Art Sydney, Sydney;
Dreamscapes-Contemporary Desert Art, Mostings Hus, Frederiksberg, Denmark;
Papunya Tula Aboriginal Art, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne;
Papunya Tula 30th Anniversary Exhibition, Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT;
Indigenart, Perth; The Desert Mob Art Show, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, N T;
Pintupi Exhibition, Papunya Tula Artists, Alice Springs, Northern Territory;
Kintore and Kiwirrkura, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne; Museum, Utopia Art Sydney, Sydney;
31st Alice Prize, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, Northern Territory; Flinders University Art Museum, Flinders University, Bedford Park, South Australia.
- 2000 - Aboriginal Art, Aboriginal Art Galerie Bahr, Speyer, Germany;
Papunya Tula: Genesis and Genius, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Framed Gallery, Darwin;
Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne;
Pintupi Women', Papunya Tula Artists, Alice Springs, Northern Territory. 1999 - Utopia Art Sydney, Flinders University Art Museum, Flinders University, Bedford Park, South Australia;
16th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin;



Walangkura Napanangka

Select Bibliography:

Art Gallery of NSW Papunya Tula: *Genesis and Genius*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2000.

Isaacs, J., *Spirit Country: Contemporary Aboriginal Art*, Hardie Grant Books, San Francisco, 1999.

Mellor, D. and Megaw V., *Twenty Five Years and Beyond, Papunya Tula Paintings*, exhibition catalogue, Flinders Art Museum, Flinders Press, Adelaide, 1999.

Bardon, Geoffrey; Ryan, Judith; Pizzi, Gabrielle; Stanhope, Zara., *Mythology and Reality - Contemporary Aboriginal Desert Art from the Gabrielle Pizzi Collection*, Heidi Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne, 2004.

© Discovery Media, Documentation Pty Ltd, and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

