

## Nancy Nyanjilpayi Chapman



Birth date: c. 1941

Language: Manyjilyjarry

Nyanjilpayi is a Manyjilyjarry woman, born in the 1940s at Jarntinti, a large claypan at the southern end of Nyayartakujarra (Ngayarta Kujarra, Lake Dora) and within the Karlamilyi (Rudall River) region. She is the sister of fellow senior Martumili Artists Mulyatingki Marney, Mayiwalku Chapman and Marjorie Yates (dec). As children, Nyanjilpayi and her family walked around the Punmu, Kunawarritji (Canning Stock Route Well 33) and Karlamilyi regions. A severe and prolonged drought extended through many years during this formative period in her life, and Nyanjilpayi remembers this as a difficult time. Although her family knew about the mission at Jigalong, where a supply of rationed food and water was assured, they chose to continue to live nomadically and independently for many years.

Both of Nyanjilpayi's parents passed away when she and her siblings were still very young, leaving them to survive by themselves in the desert. For a time the sisters travelled alone, occasionally meeting and travelling with other people and family groups that cared for them, including renowned artists Eubena Nampitjin (dec.) and Nora Nunagbar (Nyangapa) (dec.).

Finally Nyanjilpayi and her sisters decided to walk to Balfour Downs, where they were collected by Jigalong Mission staff. At Jigalong Nyanjilpayi met her husband Minyaw Miller. From there the couple lived and worked together on several cattle stations throughout the Pilbara and mined for minerals with a yandy (winnowing dish) whilst raising their children. Collectively their family relocated to Punmu Aboriginal community as foundational members during the 'Return to Country' movement of the 1980's, where they lived for many years before moving between Newman and Port Hedland in more recent times.

Nyanjilpayi is one of Martumili's pioneering artists. She is known for her energetic, diverse, and experimental approach to painting, and has developed a range of unique and technically sophisticated styles. Nyanjilpayi's artworks depict her *ngurra* (home Country, camp), the Country she walked as a young woman; its animals, plants, waterholes and associated *Jukurpa* (Dreaming) narratives. Her work has been exhibited widely across Australia and internationally and acquired by the National Museum of Australia.

# EVERYWHEN ART

## ARTIST CV

### Group Exhibitions

- 2023** Dancing for our Country, Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree, NSW  
**2023** we didn't get tired. We just kept on going. Mayiwalku, Mulyatingki, Nyanjilpayi, FORM Gallery, Claremont, WA  
**2022** Rawa – A Long Time, Aboriginal Contemporary, Sydney, NSW  
**2022** Waru (Fire), Martumili Artists Gallery, Newman, WA  
**2022** Tracks We Share, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, WA  
**2022** Nyinani | Stay Put, Martumili Artists Gallery, Newman, WA  
**2021** Martumili Mob, The Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, WA  
**2021** Warralong, Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree, NSW  
**2021** Paper Wangka (Paper Story), Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA  
**2020** Contemporary Desert Art, Dellasposa, London, UK  
**2019** Paru [Spinifex], Artitja Fine Art Gallery, Perth, WA  
**2019** Salon Des Refuses 2019, Darwin, NT  
**2019** Nyurnma (burnt Country), Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin, NT  
**2018** Hedland Art Award, The Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, WA  
**2018** Desert Mob 2019, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
**2018** Warla Tuwa, Aboriginal Contemporary, Bronte, NSW  
**2018** Martuku Ninti (Martu Knowledge), Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC  
**2018** Pujiman, Martumili Artists and Spinifex Hill Artists, Port Hedland Courthouse Gallery, WA  
**2017** Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters, touring exhibition from National Museum of Australia, Canberra, ACT  
**2017** Desert Mob, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
**2017** After the Rains, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA  
**2016** Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
**2015** Pukurlpa - Good Inside, Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree, NSW  
**2015** The Summer Collectors Show 2015, Everywhen Art, Mornington Peninsula, VIC  
**2014** Malya Yuturringu; be a star, State Theatre Centre, Perth, WA  
**2013** Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
**2013** Martumili Art Show, Newman Visitors Centre, Newman, WA  
**2013** Painting It Martu Way, Art Mob, Hobart, TAS  
**2012** We Don't Need a Map: a Martu experience of the Western Desert, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
**2012** Martumili Artists 2012, Merenda Gallery, Perth, WA  
**2012** Desert Mob, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
**2012** Warla: an explanation of the salt lakes in the Great Sandy Desert, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA  
**2012** Martumili Artists at Art Mob, Art Mob, Hobart, TAS  
**2011** Revealed – Emerging Aboriginal Artists from Western Australia, Gallery Central, Perth, WA  
**2011** Yiwarra Kuju – One Road, One People, Australian Museum, Sydney, NSW  
**2011** Waru! Holding Fire in Australia's Western Desert, Thomas Welton Stanford Art Gallery, Stanford University, San Francisco, USA  
**2011** Yiwarra Kuju – One Road, One People, Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, Perth, WA  
**2011** Desert Mob, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
**2011** Living Water – Contemporary Art of the Far Western Desert, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC  
**2010** Jakulpa laju kartyinpa (Bringing a message), Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT  
**2010** Yiwarra Kuju – One Road, One People, National Museum of Australia, Canberra, ACT  
**2010** Before and After Science, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide Biennial 2010, SA  
**2010** Martumili Group Exhibition, Redot Art Gallery, Singapore  
**2009** Warranpalampaju kayili yaninpa (Our Country travelling north), Raft Art Space, Darwin, NT  
**2009** Yankuni laju karnkani kujungka (We are travelling together by air), Red Dot Gallery, Singapore  
**2009** Wangka-Lampaju (Our Story), Randell Lane Gallery, Perth, WA

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## ARTIST CV

**2009** Nintijunu (Teaching), Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW

**2009** Puntu kurnu (Belongs to the people), Newman Visitors Centre, Newman, WA

**2008** Martumili Artists, Port Hedland Courthouse Arts Centre and Gallery, Port Hedland, WA

**2008** Martumili Artists Recent Works, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, VIC

**2008** Jitirangu (Rainbow), Randell Lane Gallery, Perth, WA

**2008** Laltu tujuparaku, yulpalpa yirnaparaku (Lots of women, little bit men), Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW

**2007** Martu-la wakarnu kuwarri wiyaju, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, VIC

## Collections

Art Gallery of Western Australia National Museum of Australia

## Awards

**2018** Kathy Donnelly Award, Hedland Art Awards