

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Nellie Coulthard Ngampa

Birth date: c. 1947

Birth place: Oodnadatta, SA

Language: Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara

Nellie Coulthard was born in desert bush land near Oodnadatta, on the remote property of the Wintinna Homestead Cattle Station. Her father worked as a shepherd for a local station, Nellie and her family traveled constantly and slept outdoors supporting her father and caring for the sheep. Nellie has two brothers and two sisters, and has lived at the Indulkana community since she was a young lady.

As there was no established housing for Indigenous people in the 1950's, Nellie and her family lived in a hand built wiltja made from found materials such as sheets of tin and dried logs and branches, close to the stationmasters home. Nellie's great niece Vicki Cullinan translates for her stating;

"When I was born, the stationmasters wife had a little girl on the same day! When we were little my family had no house and no car, we were always walking wherever we had to go. There was no school, so I learnt things from my parents and the country. When I was older I saw camels for the first time but I didn't know what they were, and my father took us for a ride on them."

When she was still quite young, Nellie took on a job at the Granite Downes Cattle Station in the stationmasters home. She worked with the stationmaster's wife and other Anangu ladies washing dishes and cleaning the house in exchange for rations and tobacco for her father. Nellie married a young stockman who was also working at the Granite Downes Cattle Station, and together they came to Indulkana with their two young children.

Nellie and her young family lived among friends and extended family at the Indulkana community, they lived in a little tin shed close to her niece Emily Cullinan and her children. Nellie took a job at the newly established pre-school and worked with young children for most of her career. After the early, sudden death of one of her own children, Nellie adopted a daughter; she is now a proud great grandma of three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

"I was a teacher at the preschool, I loved working with the chi chi's (children) I worked with Daisy Whiskey and Rene Sundown, now all those chi chi's have grown up, they have their own children. I grew up in Indulkana too, I know everybody here, and it's my home."

Nellie is a minyma pampa (respected senior woman) amongst both adults and children at Indulkana; many children regularly visit her while she paints at the art centre on their school lunch breaks. Ever since her early days of working at the Indulkana preschool and then as a teacher at the newly established family centre, Nellie has always had a compassion for ongoing improvements in children's education and opportunities available to them.

Nellie has been making paintings at the Iwantja Art Centre for many years. Her work often speaks to memories and stories of the country she recalls as a young girl, they reference her childhood experiences of living in the country. An accomplished textile maker, Nellie's structural pieces are created with extreme skill and finesse, she enjoys making unique baskets and abstract forms with tjanpi grasses and coloured wools.

As a talented singer and one of the founding members of the Indulkana church choir, Nellie is constantly involved in outreach and community development programs. Nellie participates in leading the Indulkana church choir each Sunday. While painting at the art centre, Nellie likes to listen to gospel recordings sung in language from other communities across the APY Lands.

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Exhibitions

2022 All About Art 2022 – Annual Collectors’ Exhibition, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2021 Nganana Mukurikula Paintamilani – We Love To Paint!, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2021 Tjatu: Doing Things Together – Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
2020 Nellie Ngampa Coulthard, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2020 The Summer Collector’s Show 2020, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2019 Wilurara Ananyi : Goin’ Out West, Short St Gallery, Broome WA
2019 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
2019 Tjilpi + Pampa – Senior Iwantja Artists, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2019 The Colour Purple, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2018 Nganana Kuranyukutu Ma-Palyani – For Our Future Generations, APY Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2018 Finalist, Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, NSW
2018 Art of the APY Art Centre Collective, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2018 Kungka Kunpu (Strong Women), Koskela, Sydney, NSW
2018 Ngura Kunpu (Strong Country), Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2018 Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
2018 Rising Stars, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
2018 Wynne Prize Finalist, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney NSW
2017 Many Hands - Paintings from Iwantja, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2017 Artists of the APY Lands, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2016 our Mob, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, SA
2016 APY Exhibition, Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Queensland, QLD
2016 Ngura: Country, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
2016 Iwantja Artists, Harvey Art Projects, Idaho USA
2016 SALT, McCulloch and McCulloch, Melbourne, VIC
2015 Iwantja Arts, Mr Kitly, Melbourne, VIC
2015 SALT, McCulloch and McCulloch, Melbourne, VIC
2015 Indigenous Literacy Exhibition, McCulloch and McCulloch, Sydney, NSW
2015 Nganampa Ngura, Ngananmpa Tjukurpa (Our Land, Our Stories) Artitja Fine Art, Perth, WA
2015 TARNANTHI Art Fair, Tandanya, Adelaide
2015 Our Mob, Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide
2015 Desert Colour, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs
2015 Spring Salon, McCulloch and McCulloch, Shoreham
2015 Artitja Fine Arts, Fremantle Western Australia
2015 In the Wild, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs
2014 Indigenous Literacy Exhibition, McCulloch and McCulloch, Sydney
2014 Artitja Fine Art, Western Australia
2014 Japingka Gallery, Perth Western Australia
2014 Tjungu Festival, Yulara, Uluru
2014 Autumn Salon, McCulloch and McCulloch, Shoreham VIC
2014 Right Now with Viscopy, Boomalli, Sydney
2014 Pukulpa Pots, Mr Kitly, Brunswick, VIC
2014 Celebrating Ten, Artitja Fine Art, Fremantle WA
2014 Ngali – Kitikiti – ni, Pop Up Gallery, The Rocks Sydney
2013 Better World Arts, Adelaide
2013 Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
2012 Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs
2011 Mossenson Gallery, Perth

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