

# EVERYWHEN ART ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

## Nyanu Watson



Birth date: 1951

Nyanu Watson grew up at Ernabella in the mission but moved back to Kalka with her family during the homelands movement when many people returned to country. She presently resides in Mutitjulu community, at the base of Uluru, living in aged-care.

Tjanpi (meaning 'dry grass') evolved from a series of basket weaving workshops held on remote communities in the Western Desert by the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunyatjara Womens' Council in 1995. Building on traditions of using fibre for medicinal, ceremonial and daily purposes, women took easily to making coiled baskets. These new-found skills were shared with relations on neighbouring communities and weaving quickly spread. Today there are over 400 women across 28 communities making baskets and sculptures out of grass and working with fibre in this way is firmly embedded in Western and Central Desert culture. While out collecting desert grasses for their fibre art women visit sacred sites and traditional homelands, hunt and gather food for their families and teach their children about country.

### Group Exhibitions

2020 Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters

2019 Before Time Began: Contemporary Aboriginal Art

2018 Bold & Beautiful - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs NT

2017 Ninuku Prints - Chapman and Bailey Gallery, Melbourne, VIC

2016 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT

2016 Kala ngura ngayuku - Colours of my home/country - Art Mob Gallery, Hobart TAS

2015 56th International Art Exhibition at the Venice Biennale

2015 Ninuku Tjuta - Red Dot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore

2015 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT

2012 Strong Women, - Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre, Muswellbrook NSW

2011 Manta Iri tjanku: Ngura Kutjupalakutu, Ancient Land: New Territory - Gallery nine5 and Harvey Art Projects, Soho, New York

2011 INMA: Our Ceremony - Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT

2011 Ngintaka - RAFT Artspace, Alice Springs NT

2011 Four Artists - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC

2010 Ngura Kalatjara - Land and Colour - AP Bond, Adelaide SA

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- 2009 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2009 Women and Colour - Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2009 Kulunypa Tjuta Paintamilani: Lots of Small Paintings - Short Street Gallery, Cairns NT
- 2009 Warka Kuwari Walkatjunanyi: New paintings by the Artists of Ninuku - Alcaston Gallery
- 2009 Kulila Nganampa Tjukurpa. Listen to our Stories. - Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2008 Ninuku Artists print exhibition 'Pirinyi' - Nomad Art Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2008 Ngura Tjuta: Big Country - Short Street Gallery, Broome WA
- 2008 Ninuku Artists Ngintaka Tjukurpa: Peren e Lizard Dreaming - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
- 2008 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2008 Celebrating Country: Kingship & Culture - Seymour College Art Show, Adelaide SA
- 2008 Kulila Nganampa Tjukurpa. Listen to our Stories - Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2007 Ninuku Arts, Hogarth Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2007 Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2007 Kutjupa Kutjupa Tjukurpa: Other Stories from Ninuku Arts and Tjanpi Desert Weavers, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2006 Skin on Skin, Tuggernaong Arts Centre, Canberra, ACT