

# EVERYWHEN ART

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

### Jakayu Biljabu



Birth Date: 1936  
Language: Manyjilyjarra  
Skin: Purungu  
Place of Birth: Pitu  
Home: Punmu : WA

Jakayu was born a little way north of Pitu around 1937. She grew up around Pitu, Wikirri, Rarrki, Wantili and Nyinyari on the Canning Stock Route. Drovers travelling on the stock route would kill a bullock and give food to Jakayu's group. Jakayu and her sister married the same man (Jakayu's sister was the first wife). Jakayu has two sons who were born in the bush, and one daughter born in the mission. Her father was very wary of the Europeans who were increasingly travelling along the Canning Stock Route building new roads, as a result Jakayu and her family waited longer than most before leaving a traditional life. Jakayu was travelling with her three children and a group of other people in 1963 when they were contacted by Len Beadell, who made the roads for the Woomera rocket range. Some people in the group Jakayu was travelling with had been to Jigalong previously and Len told the Jigalong mission staff that they all wanted to come into the mission. Jakayu worked as a baker at the mission and several stations before moving to Strelley station for a time. In 1982 she moved to Punmu community. Jakayu has painted primarily in Punmu community, where she has continued to live surrounded by her children and grandchildren, teaching her granddaughters about their history and country.

#### Group Exhibitions

2021 Pukurlpa (happy inside), Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA  
2020 What Now? The Good Shed, Claremont, WA  
2020 Belonging to Martu, Harvey Arts Project, Idaho, US  
2020 Ngurra Means Home, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA  
2020 Strong Country, Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin, NT  
2020 Matriarchs 2020, Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin, NT  
2020 Kujungka- Young and Old Together, Aboriginal Signature, Brussels, Belgium  
2019 Desert Mob 2019, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
2019 Nyurnma (burnt Country), Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin, NT  
2019 Martu Wangka, Martumili Gallery, Newman, 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, NT  
2018 Voice of the custodians of the Homeland: Martumili, Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Bruxelles

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2017 Art at the Heart, Martumili Gallery, Newman, 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 Community Life, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA  
2017 After The Rains, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA  
2017 Flight: Aboriginal Perspectives from the Sky, FORM Gallery, Perth, WA  
2017 Constellation, Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin, NT  
2017 Women of Martu, Suzanne OConnell Gallery, Brisbane, QLD  
2016 Martumili Artists – Nyliangkurr, Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin, NT  
2016 Scratching the Surface, Alliance Francaise de Sydney, Sydney, NSW  
2016 Desert Mob, Araluen Art Center, Alice Springs, NT  
2016 Summer Salon and Art Parade, Whistlewood, McCulloch and McCulloch, Mornington Peninsula, VIC  
2015 We Don't Need a Map - A Martu Experience of the Western Desert, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
2015 Three Deserts Singing, Frewen Arts, Piccadilly, Mayfair, London  
2015 Palya, Martumili Artists, Tjarlirli Art and Warakurna Artists, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Brightspace, VIC  
2015 We Don't Need a Map - A Martu Experience of the Western Desert, Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Gold Coast, QLD  
2015 Desert Mob, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
2015 We Don't Need a Map - A Martu Experience of the Western Desert, McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery, Langwarrin, VIC  
2015 Hedland Art Award, The Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, WA  
2015 NATSIAA The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, NT  
2015 Martumili Artists, Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin, NT  
2015 Pukurlpa - Good Inside, Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree, NSW  
2015 We Don't Need a Map - A Martu Experience of the Western Desert, Moree Plains Gallery, Moree, NSW  
2015 Together as One Martu - Art from the far Western Desert, The Gallery Shop, Waverley, NSW  
2015 We Don't Need a Map - A Martu Experience of the Western Desert, Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo, NSW  
2015 The Summer Collectors Show 2015, McCulloch & McCulloch Gallery, Mornington Peninsula, VIC  
2014 Martumili, Harvey Art Projects, USA We Don't Need a Map - A Martu Experience of the Western Desert, Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, Katoomba, NSW  
2014 WaterMark – The signature of life, IDAIA – International Development for Australian Indigenous Art, at the Arts House, Singapore  
2014 Martu Art From the Western Desert, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, NSW  
2014 Desert Mob, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
2014 Salon Des Refuses, Outstation, Darwin, NT  
2014 Malya Yuturringu; be a star, State Theatre Centre, Perth, WA  
2014 Right Now, Boomalli Gallery, Leichardt, VIC  
2013 Martumili Art Show, Newman Visitors Centre, Newman, WA  
2013 Ngayunlu-laju parturnparakula kujungka: Old people painting together, Paul Johnston Gallery, Darwin, NT  
2013 Painting It Martu Way, Art Mob, Hobart, TAS  
2013 Selected works by the Martumili Artists, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, NT  
2013 The Great Sandy Desert, Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree, NSW  
2012 We Don't Need A Map: a Martu experience of the Western Desert, WA  
2012 We Don't Need a Map - A Martu Experience of the Western Desert, Fremantle Art Centre, Perth, WA  
2012 Martumili Artists 2012, Merenda Gallery, Perth, WA

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2012 Deserts & Rivers, FORM Gallery, Perth, WA  
2012 Desert Mob, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT Watermark - The signature of life, IDAIA - International Development for Australian Indigenous Art, The Space, Hong Kong  
2012 Martumili Artists, IDAIA - International Development for Australian Indigenous Art, Galerie Kungka, Saint Avertin, France  
2012 Warla: an explanation of the salt lakes in the Great Sandy Desert, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA  
2012 Decrochage de l'exposition des Martumili Artists, Galerie Kungka, France  
2012 Martumili Artists at Art Mob, Art Mob, Hobart, TAS  
2012 Strong Women Country, IDAIA - International Development for Australian Indigenous Art, Paris, France  
2011 Martumili Artists Recent Works, William Mora Gallery, Melbourne, VIC  
2010 Yiwarra Kuju – One Road, One People, Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, Perth, WA  
2010 Yiwarra Kuju – One Road, One People, Australian Museum, Sydney, NSW  
2010 Waru! Holding Fire in Australia's Western Desert, Thomas Welton Stanford Art Gallery, Stanford University, San Francisco  
2010 Living Water – Contemporary Art of the Far Western Desert, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC  
2010 Martumili Artists, Outback Fusion Festival, Newman, WA  
2010 Revealed – Emerging Aboriginal Artists from Western Australia, Gallery Central, Perth, WA  
2010 Desert Mob, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
2009 Before and After Science, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide Biennial 2010, SA  
2009 Yiwarra Kuju – One Road, One People, National Museum of Australia, Canberra, ACT  
2009 Jakulpa laju kartyinpa (Bringing a message), Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT  
2009 Martumili Group Exhibition, AP Bond Gallery, Adelaide, SA  
2009 Edge of the Lake, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA  
2009 Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana (We walk together as friends), Waterhole Art, Sydney, NSW  
2008 Yankuni Laju Karnkani Kujungka (We are travelling together by air), Red Dot Gallery, Singapore  
2008 Nintijunu (Teaching), Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW  
2008 Puntu kurnu (Belongs to the people), Newman Visitors Centre, Newman, WA  
2008 Warranpalampaju kayili yaninpa (Our Country travelling north), Raft Art Space, Darwin, NT  
2007 Martumili Artists Recent Works, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, VIC  
2007 Laltu tujuparaku, yulpalpa yirnaparaku (Lots of women, little bit men), Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW  
2007 Jitirangu (Rainbow), Randell Lane Gallery, Perth, WA  
2007 Ngurra waltja wakarni (We are painting country), Short St Gallery, Broome, WA  
2007 Martumili Artists, Port Hedland Courthouse Arts Centre and Gallery, Port Hedland, WA  
2006 Martu-la wakarnu kuwarri wiyaju (Martu painting together first time), William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, VIC  
2005 Parnngurr Artists, Stanford University, California

## Awards

2015 Finalist, Hedland Art Award  
2015 Finalist, Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award  
2013 Finalist, Glencore Art Centre Award  
2013 Finalist, Hedland Art Award

## Collections

Art Gallery of New South Wales  
Art Gallery of Western Australia  
Gallery of Modern Art, Queensland  
Art Gallery Museum of Contemporary Art

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