

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Lily Kelly Napangardi



Birth date: c. 1948

Birth place: Dashwood Creek, Haasts Bluff, NT

Language: Warlpiri

Lily Kelly Napangardi is a Warlpiri woman born at Dashwood Creek near Haasts Bluff around 1948. Her father was Sandy Opal Tjapanangka, one of the original Papunya Tula shareholders and her mother was Narputta Nungurrayi. She moved with her family to the newly established community of Papunya in 1960 where she would have done a small amount of schooling. Lily began painting while assisting her husband Norman Kelly paints designs that relate to her country around Haasts Bluff, Mt Liebig, Papunya and Kintore. She uses fine dense dot work to create a shimmer effect which depicts the wind moving sand and the rains that bring life to the desert. Her style is typical of the artists of this region. The paintings show the sandhills (Tali Tali). Lily's family would travel through the sand hill country in search of water holes (Kapi) where she and her ancestors before her hunted and gathered food. From the early 2000s, Lily Kelly became one of the most highly sought after contemporary Aboriginal artists.

Exhibitions

- 1999 Desert Mob Show, Alice Springs, NT
- 2000 Graham Marshal Gallery, Adelaide, SA
- 2001 Desert Mob Show, Alice Springs, NT
- 2002 Desert Mob Show, Alice Springs, NT
- 2002 Telstra Awards, Darwin, NT
- 2003 Telstra Awards, Darwin, NT
- 2003 Neil Murphy Indigenous Art showing at Mary Place Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2003 Graham Marshal Gallery, Adelaide, SA
- 2003 Telstra Awards, Darwin, NT
- 2003 Neil Murphy Indigenous Art, Span Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 2003 Desert Mob Show, Alice Springs, NT
- 2004 Neil Murphy Indigenous Art, Span Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 2004 Mary Place Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2004 Graham Marshal Gallery, Adelaide, SA
- 2005 Desert Dreamings, Mary Place Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2005 Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2006 Luminaries of the Desert, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA

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2006 Tony Bond Gallery
2006 Knud Grothe Gallery, Denmark Copenhagen (Lily was Artist in Residence)
2006 Colliding Worlds, Tandanya, Adelaide, SA
2007 Watiyawanu Artists of Amunturrngu, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
2008 Watiyawanu Artists, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
2009 Watiyawanu Artists, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
2010 Desert Country, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
2011 In Black and White, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
2014 Dot Code: Desert Artists, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
2014 Mini Masters: Small Works, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
2015 Sixteen Artists – 16 x 2, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle WA
2019 Summer Show & Art Parade, Salt, Queenscliff, VIC
2019 defining tradition | black + white, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2019 Spring Collection: Exhibition to celebrate our beautiful Spring Collection, Brenda Colahan Fine Art, Sydney, NSW
2019 Matches 6 - Group Exhibition - Featuring Barbara Weir, Ian Bettinson, Jack Britten, Lily Kelly Napangardi, Minnie Pwerle, Tony Tuckson & Yvonne Mills-Stanley, FireWorks Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
2020 60 by 60 - Small Paintings, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
2020 Central Focus, Art Mob, Hobart, TAS
2020 Pointillism Perfection, Art Mob, Hobart, TAS
2021 Private Collection | Private View: One Collector's Passion & Soul, Cooe Art, Redfern, NSW

Awards

Winner 1986 Northern Territory Art Award
Winner 2003 Painting Award Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Straight Islander Award

Collections

Musée du quai Branly, Paris
The Kelton Foundation, Santa Monica (USA)
Gallery Anthony Curtis, Cambridge, MA (USA)
The Thomas Vroom Collection, Amsterdam (NL) Groninger Museum, The Netherlands
The National Gallery of Australia, Canberra
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane[2]
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
The Kerry Stokes Collection
The Holmes à Court Collection, Perth
Artbank, Sydney