

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Shorty Jangala Robertson



Born: 1925

Skin Name: Jangala

Country: Yuendumu : NT

Language: Warlpiri

Shorty Jangala Robertson was born at Jila (Chilla Well), a large soakage and claypan northwest of Yuendumu, a remote Aboriginal community located 290 kms north-west of Alice Springs in the NT of Australia. He lived a nomadic hunter-gatherer lifestyle with his parents, older brother and extended Warlpiri family. They travelled vast distances across desert country, passing through Warlukurlangu, south west of Jila and Ngarlikurlangu, north of Yuendumu, visiting Jangala's, his skin brothers. His childhood memories consist of stories associated with the Coniston massacre of Aboriginal people and close to Jila, families were shot at Wantaparri. Shorty Jangala Robertson had virtually no contact with white fellas during his youth but remembered leaving Jila for Mt Theo 'to hide' from being shot. His father died at Mt Theo and then with his mother moved to Mt Doreen Station, and subsequently the new settlement of Yuendumu. During World War II, the army took people from Yuendumu to the other Warlpiri settlement at Lajamanu. Shorty was taken and separated from his mother however she came to get him, on foot and together they travelled hundreds of miles back to Chilla Well. Drought, food and medical supplies forced Shorty and his family back to Yuendumu from time to time. His working life was full of adventure and hard work for different enterprises in the Alice Springs Yuendumu area. He finally settled at Yuendumu in 1967 after the Australian Citizen Referendum. It is extraordinary in all his travels and jobs over his whole working life, that he escaped the burgeoning and flourishing Central Desert art movement of the 1970's and 1980's. Thus Shorty's paintings are fresh, vigorous and new. His use of colour to paint and interpret his dreamings of Ngapa (Water), Watiyawarnu (Acacia), Yankirri (Emu) and Pamapardu (Flying Ant) is vital, yet upholding the Warlpiri tradition. This fledgling artist, well in his 70's when he started painting, he was an active member of Warlukurlangu Artists Aboriginal Association, an Aboriginal owned and governed art centre located in Yuendumu. His first solo exhibition at Alcaston Gallery in 2003 was met with great artistic acclaim. Since then he exhibited in Aboriginal Art Exhibitions in Australia and overseas.

Solo Exhibitions

2016 Get Shorty!, FireWorks Gallery, Brisbane, QLD

2011 Shorty Jangala Robertson, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney NSW

2010 Shorty Jangala Robertson, Kingfisher Gallery, Perth WA

2010 Shorty Jangala Robertson, Tunbridge Gallery, Perth, WA

2009 Shorty Jangala Robertson, Ngapa jukurra (Water Dreaming), Coe-ee, Sydney, NSW

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2007 Singing The Rain, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2006 Shorty Jangala Robertson, Coo-ee, Sydney, NSW
2005 Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs
2005 Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
2004 Coo-ee, Sydney, NSW
2003 First Solo Exhibition, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne

Group Exhibitions

2022 Connection, National Museum of Australia, Canberra, ACT
2022 The Summer Collector's Show 2022, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2022 Tanami Today, Art Mob, Hobart, TAS
2022 Art Mob's 20th Birthday, Art Mob, Hobart, TAS
2021 Private View: One Collector's Passion & Soul, Coeee Art, Redfern, NSW
2020 The Summer Collector's Show 2020, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2019 Regeneration: Showing, Teaching, Passing Down, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2018 Land And Sky – Warlpiri Artists, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
2017 Winter Salon & Art Parade, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2016 Winter Salon & Art Parade, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2013 Spring Salon, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2012 The Signature of Life, Hong Kong
2010 'Songlines' - La Fontaine Centre of Contemporary Art, Bahrain
2010 'Warlu manu Ngapa: Fire & Water' - Bookerlowe Gallery, Texas, USA
2010 Exposition d'art aborigène d'Australie, IDAIA and Galerie Princesse de Kiev, France
2010 Living the Land, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2010 'We Walk Together as Friends', 6th Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yani, Sydney NSW
2010 Artitja Fine Art Exhibition, Perth, WA
2010 Contemporary Traditions, Amelia Johnson Gallery, Hong Kong
2010 Warlukurlangu Artists - Recent Works, Hogarth Gallery, Sydney NSW
2010 "Chasseur de Reves" (Dreams Hunter), African Muse Gallery, Paris, France
2009 Desert Mob 2009, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
2009 Palya Art at Gallows Gallery, Gallows Gallery, Perth, WA
2009 Desert Colours, Hogarth Gallery, Sydney
2009 Centred Art, Rotterdam, Netherlands
2009 Kleur Bekennen/Show Your Colours, Vocklabruck, Austria
2009 Value of Country, ArtKelch, Freiburg, Germany
2009 Nyirripi & Yuendumu Artists, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
2009 All About Country, ArtKelch, Freiburg, Germany
2009 'Tracks' - Bookerlowe Gallery, Texas, USA
2008 Warlukurlangu Wonders, Warlpiri Paintings from Yuendumu, Art Mob, Tasmania
2008 Contemporary Aboriginal Art Exhibition, Harrison Gallery, Sydney NSW
2008 New Directions, Gecko Gallery, Broome, WA
2008 Bush Tucker 08, Arereal Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2008 Desert Stories, Artitja Fine Art, Perth, WA
2008 Warlukurlangu Artists, Beaver Gallery, Canberra, ACT
2008 Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
2008 Les couleurs du désert australien, L'Antidote, Geneva, Switzerland
2008 Warlukurlangu Artists, Established & Emerging Artists, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2008 Shalom Gamarada Aboriginal Art Exhibition, Caspary Conference Centre, Sydney, NSW
2008 Representations of Country, Artitja Fine Art, Perth, WA

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2008 Opening Doors into Colourful Dreamtime, ReDot Gallery, Singapore
2008 Warlukurlangu Artists, the art of Yuendumu, La Fontaine Centre of Contemporary Art, Bahrain UAE
2008 Artists of Nyirripi & Yuendumu, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
2008 Aboriginal Art aus der Central und Western Desert, ArtKelch, Germany
2007 Stocking, Arterreal, Sydney, NSW
2007 The Christmas Show, Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs NT
2007 Australian Aboriginal Artists from the Central Desert, Jeffrey Moose Gallery, Seattle WA, USA
2007 Aboriginal Printmakers NT & QLD, Framed Gallery, Darwin
2007 Bush Tucker, Arterreal, Sydney, NSW
2007 SIPA , Seoul International Print, Photo & Edition Works Art Fair, Southern Exchange, S Korea
2007 Warlukurlangu - Aboriginal Art aus Yuendumu, ArtKelch, Freiburg, Germany
2007 The Best of the Best jewels of the desert, Framed Gallery, Darwin NT
2007 Above & Beyond, Caruana Fine Art & Reid Mercantile, Sydney, NSW
2007 Contemporary Masters of the Central Desert, SF Fine Art, Sydney, NSW
2007 Water for Life, Victorian Artists Society, World Vision Exhibition, Melbourne, VIC
2007 Desert Dreamings: earth + water, Artitja Fine Art, Perth, WA
2007 Shalom Gamarada Aboriginal Art Exhibition, Shalom College, Sydney, NSW
2007 Above and Beyond, Caruana & Reid Fine Art, Sydney, NSW
2007 Couples, painting partners from Yuendumu & Nyirripi, Gadfly Gallery, Perth, WA
2007 Yuendumu & Kimberley – Twin Indigenous Show, United Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2007 Desert Mob, Baguette Gallery, Brisbane in conjunction with Suzanne O'Connell Gallery
2007 Warlukurlangu Artists, Hogarth Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2007 Tiwa Ngurrara – Strangers?, Artkelch, Freiburg, Germany
2006 Summer Evening, Anne Snell Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2006 Warlpiri Artists of Yuendumu, Japingka Gallery, WA
2006 Desert Mob, Araluen Art & Cultural Centre, Alice Springs, NT
2006 Warlukurlangu Artists - Recent Works, Mason Gallery, Darwin, NT
2006 Warlukurlangu Artists – New Works, Hogarth Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2006 Gamarada Indigenous Scholarship Fund, NSW
2006 Paintings from the Fire Country, Birrung Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2006 Artists of Yuendumu, Australia's Outback Gallery, NT & Outback Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney, NSW
2005 Land of Diversity, Hogarth Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2005 Warlukurlangu Group Show, Beaver Gallery, Canberra, ACT
2005 Big Country Exhibition, Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs, NT
2005 Luminous, Northern Editions, Charles Darwin University, Darwin, NT
2005 Water Dreaming from the Central Desert, Walkabout Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2005 Recent Works, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
2005 Group Show, Alison Kelly Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2005 'Warlukurlangu Collection', Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs,
2005 Jukurrpa Wiri 'Important Dreaming Stories' Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs, NT
2005 Bellas Milani Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
2005 'WAAA Collection' Flinders Museum Adelaide SA
2005 Water Dreamings Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2004 The Alice Prize, Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs
2004 'All About Art – Annual Collectors Exhibition', Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne.
2004 'Recent Works from Warlakurlangu', Hogarth Gallery, Sydney
2004 'Desert Mob' Alice Springs Cultural Precinct, Araluen Arts Centre
2004 'Big Country' Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs
2004 Shorty Robertson – Solo Exhibition, Coo-ee Aboriginal Art, Sydney
2004 New Works from Yuendumu, Bellas Gallery, Brisbane
2004 'Dreaming Stories', Indigenart, Perth

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2004 `Little Warlu, Big Stories, Hot little paintings from big artists of Yuendumu, NT & Outback Centre, Sydney
2004 'Painting Country', Thornquest Gallery, Queensland
2003 True Blue Christmas 2003, Framed Gallery, NT
2003 Kurruwarri Wirijarlu – Big Story' Hogarth Gallery, Sydney
2003 Kurruwarri Pipangka – Designs on Paper' CDU Gallery, Charles Darwin University NT
2003 All About Art, Alcaston Gallery at Depot Gallery, Sydney
2003 Warlukurlangu Artists, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne
2002 Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne

Mediums

Acrylic on Canvas

Themes

Ngapa Jukurrpa (Water)
Watiya- warnu Jukurrpa (Acacia Tenuissima)

Collections

ARALUEN CULTURAL PRECINCT, ALICE SPRINGS
ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY
ARTBANK, SYDNEY, NSW
FLINDERS UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM, MELBOURNE .
GORDON DARLING FOUNDATION, CANBERRA
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA .
NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, MELBOURNE .

Publications

2006 1. 'Football from Australia's heart', National Indigenous Times, Issue 29, vol. 2, April 16, 2003, p. 21