

EVERYWHEN ART ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Imitjala Curley



Birth date: 1953

Birth place: Ernabella, SA

Language: Pitjantjatjara

Imitjala was born in 1953 when her parents were at the Ernabella mission but the family moved to Fregon as soon as the cattle station was established in 1961. A senior traditional women, Imitjala holds cultural knowledge relating to the Ngintaka, Perentie lizard, and Ngapari - sugar leaf - tjukurpa at Watarru. Her connection to the Kampurparpa tjukurpa in the Walytjitjata region is through her mother, Puni Puni. It is a small homeland just over the Northern Territory border about 46km north of Kalka on the APY Lands. Imitjala was married to Kun Curley (dec) and has five children, all girls. She has been working intermittently with Kaltjiti Arts since it began as a craft room in the early sixties.

Kaltjiti Arts and Crafts is a community based, Aboriginal art centre in the remote community of Fregon in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands of South Australia. The heart of the small community is the art centre which is a place of inspiration, dynamism and a cultural focal point.

Through their artworks, elders and senior artists teach younger generations about important cultural traditions and stories, passing on knowledge that has come to them from their ancestors.

Katjiti Arts is known as an art centre with diversity of aesthetic and a depth of talent. Senior male artists Witjiti George and Taylor Copper are joined by senior women, Manitjanu Lennon, Imitjala Curley, Matjangka Norris and Kathy Marangka, all exploring Tjukurpa of the region. Senior artists enjoy the opportunity of working together on collaborative major works, which are also used to teach younger generations skills in painting technique and story telling. It is this commitment to Tjukurpa and traditional painting technique which has allowed Kaltjiti Arts to establish a reputation as being an art centres of that creates artworks of the highest quality, which are also rich in cultural integrity.

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Group Exhibitions

2022 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (DAAF), Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin, NT
2018 Steadfast - Works from Kaltjiti, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
2016 September Desert Mob Show 2016, Araluen Galleries, Alice Springs, NT
2016 August Salon de Refuse, Charles Darwin University Gallery, NT
2016 Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW
2016 A Song and a Prayer for our Friend, RAFT Art Space, Alice Springs, NT
2016 KILILPI-TILI PULKA IRNYAN- Bright Shining Stars by the Artists of Kaltjiti, Paul Johnstone Gallery
2014 Desert Mob Show, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
2014 Desert Country, Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
2009 Anangu Backyard Exhibition