

EVERYWHEN ART ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Nora Wompi



Birth date: c. 1935

Birth place: Pingkurangu rockhole, WA

Language: Manyjilyjarra, Kukatja

Nora Wompi Nungurrayi was born c. 1935 at Pingakurangu rockhole near Kunawarritji or Well 33 on the Canning Stock Route. Nora Wompi was famous for painting her country around her Kunawarritji homelands a place associated with the Minyipuru Jukurrpa (Seven Sister Dreaming).

As a young woman Wompi followed the drovers of the Canning Stock Route north to Balgo Mission where she stayed for many years. There she learnt to paint in the late 1980s with her close friend, Eubena Nampitjin. She returned to Kunawarritji when it became a community in its own right in the 1990s.

Today she paints for both the arts centre Martumili close to her homeland and at Warlayirti Artists, Balgo where she maintains close connections. Wompi's evocative renditions of her place were aptly described by writer Nicolas Rothwell in The Australian in a 2009 survey of the Desert Mob exhibition at Araluen in Alice Springs:

".. Wompi's painting of Kunawarritji, painted "wet on wet" with consummate skill, seems at once to conjure up the essence of a mythic world: its colours, which clash, then harmonise, hint at a set of shapes, a way of seeing country X-rayed, a way of linking place and memory."

Her work featured in the major and culturally-rich Canning Stock Route return to birthplace project that resulted in a highly acclaimed exhibition at the National Museum of Australia in Australia and has been highly collected by private collectors and public collections.

In 2013 she was announced as one of 16 Australia-wide finalists in the prestigious biennial Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards at the Art Gallery of Western Australia. Nora Wompi passed away in 2017.

Solo Exhibitions

2013 August Pirkijarra (My Mother), Suzanne OConnell Gallery, New Farm, QLD

2012 Nora Wompi, Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, Melbourne Art Fair, VIC

2011 Nora Wompi, Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, Brisbane, QLD

2010 Nora Wompi, Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, fortyfivedownstairs, Melbourne, VIC

2009 Nora Wompi, Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, Brisbane, QLD

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2008 Nora Wompi, Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, Brisbane, QLD

2002 Nora Wompi, Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT

Group Exhibitions

2022 Synergy 2022, Everywhen Artspace at Xavier College, Melbourne, VIC

2021 Synergy, Everywhen Artspace at Xavier College, Melbourne, VIC

2020 Fire and Rain, Art Atrium, Sydney, NSW

2020 Summer Collector's Show, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria

2019 Winter Salon + Art Parade, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

2019 Colours of my Country, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

2018 Spiritual Connection: contemporary Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art, Art Atrium, Sydney, NSW

2018 A Sense of Place, McCulloch & McCulloch/Whistlewood, Mornington Peninsula

2017 In the Future Everything Will be as Certain as it Used to be, Framer Framed, Amsterdam, Netherlands

2016 Scratching the Surface, Alliance Francaise de Sydney. Sydney, NSW

2016 Pirkijarra (My mother), Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, New Farm

2016 Summer Salon and Art Parade, Whistlewood, Mornington Peninsula, Vic

2015 Palya, Martumili Artists, Tjarlirli Art and Warakurna Artists, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Brightspace

2015 Leading Ladies, Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, New Farm, QLD

2015 Tarnanthi, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA

2015 Desert Mob, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT

2015 Martumili Artists, Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin NT

2015 Pukurlpa - Good Inside, Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree, NSW

2015 Together as One Martu - Art from the far Western Desert, The Gallery Shop, Waverley, NSW

2015 A Time and a Place: Landscapes from the Griffith University Art Collection, Griffith University Art Gallery, QLD

2015 The Summer Collectors Show 2015, McCulloch & McCulloch Gallery, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

2014 Martu Art From the Western Desert, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney

2014 Private Eye, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA

2014 Country to Coast, Colours of the Kimberley, Museum of Contemporary Aboriginal Art, Utrecht, Netherlands

2014 Desert Mob, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT

2014 Right Now, Boomalli Gallery, Leichardt, Vic

2014 Balgo 2014, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC

2013 Wompi Bugai Nungabar, Fremantle Art Centre, Fremantle, WA

2013 Salon des Refuses, Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin

2013 Painting It Martu Way, Art Mob, Hobart

2013 Selected works by the Martumili Artists, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs

2013 The Great Sandy Desert, Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree

2012 We Don't Need A Map: a Martu experience of the Western Desert

2012 Martumili Artists 2012, Merenda Gallery, Perth

2012 Deserts & Rivers, FORM Gallery, Perth

2012 Desert Mob, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs

2012 Warla: an explanation of the salt lakes in the Great Sandy Desert, Short Street Gallery, Broome

2012 Decrochage de l'exposition des Martumili Artists, Galerie Kungka, France

2012 Martumili Artists Recent Works, William Mora Gallery, Melbourne

2011 Living Water – Contemporary Art of the Far Western Desert, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

2011 Green, Outstation, Darwin

2011 Waru! Holding Fire in Australia's Western Desert, Thomas Welton Stanford Art Gallery, Stanford University, San Francisco

2011 Yiwarra Kuju – One Road, One People, Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, Perth

2011 Yiwarra Kuju 2010 Yiwarra Kuju – One Road, One People, Australian Museum, Sydney Jakulpa laju kartyinpa (Bringing a message), Chapman Gallery, Canberra Hedland Art Award, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland

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2010 Yiwarra Kuju – One Road, One People, National Museum of Australia, Canberra
2010 Edge of the Lake, Short Street Gallery, Broome
2010 Martumili Group Exhibition, Redot Art Gallery, Singapore
2010 Martumili Group Exhibition, AP Bond Gallery, Adelaide
2009 Wangka-Lampaju (Our Story), Randell Lane Gallery, Perth
2009 Yankuni laju karnkani kujungka (We are travelling together by air), Red Dot Gallery, Singapore
2008 Martumili Artists Recent Works, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
2008 Laltu tujuparaku, yulpalpa yirnaparaku (Lots of women, little bit men), Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney
2008 Ngurra waltja wakarni (We are painting country), Short St Gallery, Broome
2008 Martumili Artists, Port Hedland Courthouse Arts Centre and Gallery, Port Hedland

Awards

2014 Finalist, Western Australian Indigenous Art Award, Art Gallery of WA
2011 28th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of NT, Darwin
2008 35th Alice Prize, Araluen, Alice Springs
2007 24th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin

Collections

National Museum of Australia
Gallery of Modern Art/Queensland Art Gallery
National Gallery of Victoria
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
Art Gallery of NSW
Araluen Arts Centre Collection
Artbank
Brocard – Estrangin Collection
Griffith University Art Collection, Brisbane
Helen Read Collection
HBL Collection, Melbourne
The Edward Rowden White Collection, Trinity College, University of Melbourne
The Laverty Collection, Sydney