

EVERYWHEN ART ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Tjunkaya Tapaya OAM



Birth Date	1947
Birth Place	Attila (Mt Connor)
Language	Pitjantjatjara

Tjunkaya grew up at the Ernabella Mission. In mission days, the building which is now the art centre was originally used as a food hall by the missionaries. In 1948 it became the Craft Room, where the first work was by women, spinning wool and rug making. Most of the senior artists painting on the APY Lands today have passed through this building across more than one of its incarnations.

Tjunkaya began work in the Craft Room making weavings, later excelling in the medium of batik, and became one of the outstanding artists with work in several public collections. Her work was featured on the cover of Judith Ryan's 'Across the Desert: Aboriginal Batik from Central Australia.'

Tjunkaya also works in ceramics, tjanpi, punu, print making, spinning and mukata making and her work in these mediums has been seen in numerous exhibitions in Australia and internationally since 1971, in public and private galleries. Her works are held in many national and international collections, including the National Museum of Scotland, National Museum of Australia, National Gallery of Australia and the Museum of Ethnology, Osaka.

Since 2015, Tjunkaya has chosen to concentrate on painting and tjanpi sculpture. This focus has seen her become one of the most in demand female artists on the APY Lands and increasingly recognised in these two mediums. In 2010 and 2011 she was collected by Artbank, and in 2011 and 2012 selected as a finalist in the Togart Contemporary Art Award. In 2012 her tjulpu (bird) tjanpi sculptures were selected for exhibition in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (the Telstras). 2011 marked the commencement of Tjunkaya's 5th decade of working at Ernabella Arts. Her first solo show was in 2012 at Alcaston Gallery in Melbourne, where Tjunkaya exhibited a mix of paintings and tjanpi sculpture.

She was the Deputy Chair of the art centre and the leader of the Nintintjaku Project, an inter-generational teaching project working with Ernabella Anangu School and the Ernabella NPY youth team. She has also recently recommenced work in the ceramics studio, exhibiting ceramics again for the first time in a number of years. Tjunkaya is also a prolific writer in Pitjantjatjara. She is currently developing a bi-lingual children's book. She also has essays published in a number of exhibition catalogues, including the Desert Mob 2017 catalogue and the catalogue for the 2017 Tarnanthi: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art.

In 2016 Tjunkaya took part in a collaborative project, a tjanpi (woven) sculpture called Minyma Tjirilyanya Ngaltujara Pikatjara (Echidna Woman Hurt and Sick). This tells an ancient story of the Echidna Woman. This work was listed as a finalist in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award.

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

In 2018 Tjunkaya's life's work as a representative for her people, an artist and a writer was recognised and she received the Gladys Elphick Award for Lifetime Achievement.

In 2020 Tjunkaya was awarded an Order of Australia, General Division in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Solo Exhibitions

2012 Nintinjaku - teaching, showing, passing on - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC Group Exhibitions

Group Exhibitions

2022 In Black + White, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

2021 Caress the Earth : Manta Ngura Atuntju Kanyini - Aboriginal Signature, Bruxelles, Belgium

2021 Three Ladies from Ernabella: Minyma Mankurpa Ernabella la Nguru, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

2021 Desert Mob 30 - Araleun Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT

2021 Ananyi Nyurakutu- Going Home - Artitja Fine Art Gallery, South Fremantle, WA

2020 Always Was, Always Will be - McCulloch and McCulloch, Everywhen Artspace, VIC

2020 Pattern and Place - Metro Arts, Queensland

2020 Cultural Connections: the gift of story - Artitja Fine Art, South Fremantle

2020 Tarnarhi Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art: Open Hands - Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA

2020 Spring Salon Art - Artitja Fine Art, York, WA

2020 Nganampa Tjukurpa Ananyi Wilurara (Our Stories Going West) - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA

2020 Nganampa Tjukurpa Ananyi Kakarara (Our Stories Going East) - Aboriginal Contemporary, Sydney, NSW

2020 Flying Colours - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT

2019 Wanapari - in a line, following one another - JamFactory Craft and Design Centre, Adelaide, VIC

2019 ReGeneration: Showing, teaching, passing down, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

2019 Desert Mob 2019 - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT

2019 Desert Colour featuring Ernabella ceramics - Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, NT

2018 Offen für Kunst - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany

2018 Desert Mob 2018 - Araluen Art Centre

2018 Knowing Country - Artitja Fine Art, South Fremantle

2017 In These Hands: Mara Nyangangka - Sturt Gallery, Mittagong NSW

2017 FINALISTS. 1997 – 2017 - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany

2017 Continuing Culture - Artitja Fine Art, Fremantle, WA

2017 Desert Mob 2017 - Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT

2017 Our Country in Clay - Nomad Art, Darwin NT

2017 Ngura Kutjupa, Walytja Kutju: Different communities, one family - Tangentyere Artists, Alice Springs, NT

2017 Relative Colours - Aboriginal Contemporary, Sydney, NSW

2016 Nganampa Kililpil: Our Stars - Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre

2016 Point of difference - Desert to the Sea - Artitja Fine Art, Fremantle, WA

2016 Inheritance - Salt Contemporary, Queenscliff, VIC

2016 All About Colour, Summer Show + Art Parade - McCulloch & McCulloch/Salt Contemporary Art

2015 Tjukurpa Kunpu / Strong Culture: HOLIDAY SHOW 2015-2016 - Harvey Art Projects, USA

2015 Ausblick – Einblick - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany

2015 art Karlsruhe 2015 - Karlsruhe, Germany

2015 Dots, Dots, Dots und die Punkte des Holzwurms - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany

2015 Desert Colour - Talapai Gallery, Alice Springs NT

2015 NGANAMPA NGURA, NGANAMPA TJUKURPA – Our Land, Our Stories - Artitja Fine Art, South Fremantle

2015 Kuruntu mukuringkula kulira palyantja (Stories straight from the heart) - Short Street Gallery, Broome

2015 Bold and the Beautiful - Talapi, Alice Springs

2014 PRO COMMUNITY – Eastern APY Lands - touring exhibition ARTKELCH @ ARTKELCH, Freiburg, @ Staatliches

Völkerkundemuseum, München, @ ARTKELCH Collectors Lounge, Schorndorf, @ Fabrik der Künste, Hamburg und @ Draenert

Orangerie, Immenstaad (Lake Constance), Germany

EVERYWHEN ART

everywhenart.com.au

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

2014 Masters: Interpretation of Land, McCulloch & McCulloch/Salt Contemporary Art, - Queenscliff, Vic
2014 art Karlsruhe 2014 - ARTKELCH @ art Karlsruhe 2014, Karlsruhe, Germany
2014 Desert Mob - Araluen Arts Centre
2014 Spring Salon + Art Parade McCulloch & McCulloch - Shoreham Victoria
2014 Pilanypa - Harvey Art Projects, Idaho USA
2014 Autumn Salon + Art Parade, McCulloch & McCulloch - Shoreham Victoria
2014 Bold and the Beautiful - Talapi, Alice Springs
2014 Eastern APY Lands: ArtKelch - Touring Freiburg, Munich, Hamburg and Bodensee, Germany
2014 The Summer Collectors Show, McCulloch & McCulloch - Shoreham Victoria
2013 Tjukurpa Nganampa Kunpu Kanyintjaku: Keeping Our Stories Strong - Harvey Art Projects, Idaho USA
2013 A Salon Show for Indigenous Literacy, McCulloch & McCulloch - DMCP Media, Leichhardt, NSW, Heartland.
2013 Contemporary Art from South Australia - Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA
2013 ReGeneration: established & emerging talents of Indigenous Art - McCulloch & McCulloch, Shoreham, VIC
2013 Nyinninga: The Cold Time of the Year - Harvey Art Projects, Idaho USA
2013 Desert Mob - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
2013 String Theory: Focus on Contemporary Australian Art - Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney NSW
2013 Australian Vision, NAIDOC 2013 - Australian High Commission, Singapore
2012 Ngayuku Ngura, Ngayuku Tjukurpa - SA Museum, Adelaide SA
2012 Tjamuku Kamiku Tjukurpa - Outstation Gallery, Darwin NT
2012 Tjukurpa Mulapa (True Stories) - Redot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
2012 Deadly: in-between heaven and hell - Tandanya, Adelaide SA
2012 Indigenous Ceramic Art Award - Shepparton Art Museum, Shepparton VIC
2012 Togart Contemporary Art Award - Chan Contemporary Art Space, Darwin NT
2012 Kapi Ukalinganyi - Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney NSW
2012 Desert Mob - Araluen Arts Centre, 2012
2012 NATSIAAs - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
2011 Ngura Kutju, Tjukurpa Pulkatjara - Short St Gallery, Broome WA
2011 Tjukurpa nyangatja ngananala unngu ngaranya - Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney NSW
2011 Our Mob 2010 On Tour - National travelling exhibition
2011 Ernabella Undiscovered - Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River WA
2011 Togart Contemporary Art Award - Chan Contemporary Arts Space, Darwin NT
2011 Ernabella Arts Kuwari - Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT
2011 The Kings School Art Prize 2011 - The Kings School, Parramatta NSW
2011 Desert Mob - Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT
2011 We Know our Land, We Keep our Land - raft Artspace, Alice Springs NT
2010 Ngura Nganampa (Our Country) - Outstation Gallery, Darwin NT
2010 Our Mob - Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide SA
2010 Recent Paintings: Ernabella Arts - Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT
2010 Kayili and Ernabella 2010 - Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney NSW
2010 Ara irititja munu ara kuwaritja Ernabella-la - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne VIC
2010 Ngura Nganampa (Our Country) - JamFactory, Adelaide SA
2010 Desert Mob - Araluen Centre, Alice Springs NT
2010 Womens Exhibition - Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth WA
2009 Ernabella Ceramics - Birrung Gallery, Sydney, NSW (Ceramics Triennial)
2008 Anangu Backyard - Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, SA
2008 Kiti Art: New Batik from Ernabella - Fabric of Life, Adelaide Fringe Festival, Adelaide, SA
2008 Nganampa warka wiru (Our work is beautiful) - Cudgegong Gallery, Gulgong, NSW
2008 Across the Desert: Aboriginal Batik from Central Australia - National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Victoria
2008 Desert Mob - Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT
2007 Desert Diversity - Flinders Lane Gallery, Adelaide, SA
2007 Visions of Country - Seymour College, Adelaide, SA
2007 Divas of the Desert - Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs, NT
2007 Desert Mob - Araluen Cultural Centre, Alice Springs, NT

EVERYWHEN ART

everywhenart.com.au

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

2007 A Way of Seeing - Gallery Gondwana, Sydney, NSW
2007 Australian Contemporary - New works from Ernabella, Hermannsburg and Tiwi Islands - SOFA, Chicago, USA
2007 Ernabella - A Collection of New Works - Australia Dreaming Art, Melbourne, Victoria
2006 Let the Earth Speak - Fabric of Life, Adelaide, SA
2006 Homeland Heartland - Jam Factory Contemporary Craft & Design, Adelaide, SA
1998 Australian Girls Own Gallery (AGOG) - Canberra, ACT
1998 Threefold: An exhibition in three parts for Shift - Canberra School of Art, Canberra, NT
1998 Warka Irititja munu Kuwari Kutu (Work from the Past and Present): A Celebration of Fifty years of Ernabella Arts - Tandanya, Adelaide, SA
1998 Walka Ernabella Palyantja (Desgings made in Ernabella) - Spark Gallery, Wollongong University, NSW
1997 Purnululu - Raintree Aboriginal Fine Art Gallery, Darwin
1997 Ernabella Walka/Ernabella Design - Mutitjulu Cultural Centre, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, NT
1996 Painting the Land - National Museum of Australia, Canberra, ACT (then touring until 1999)
1994 Ernabellaku: Tjukurpa wiru, Nganampa tjukurpa - Museum Nasional, Jakarta, Indonesia
1994 Peter Ballas Gallery - Brisbane, QLD
1993 The Childrens Gift - Tandanya, Adelaide, SA
1993 Lizards, Snakes & Cattle Dogs - Australian Contemporary Textiles - German Textile Museum, Krefeld, Germany
1989 Wirutjuta - Araluen Art Centre for Culture and Entertainment, Alice Springs, NT
1988 Texas International Festival - Texas, USA
1988 Karnta - Throughout South-East Asia
1986 Textiles of the Commonwealth (Touring exhibition) - UK 1976 Grace Bros - Chatswood - Sydney, NSW (also 1977 & 1982)
1971 Argyle Arts Centre - Sydney, NSW

Collections

ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, SA 2012
ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, COLLABORATIVE TJANPI WORK, 2012
ARTBANK, 2010, 2011
LEEWIN ESTATE, 2012
MUSEUM OF ETHNOLOGY, OSAKA, JAPAN
NATIONAL GALLERY AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA, ACT
NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, 2004
NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND, UK
NORTHERN TERRITORY CRAFTS COUNCIL, DARWIN, NT
QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY, BRISBANE, QLD
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA, 2014
ARALUEN ARTS CENTRE
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES (AIATSIS), CANBERRA ACT
JANET HOLMES À COURT COLLECTION
CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY, 2021

Awards

2021 Finalist, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
2018 Perpetual Gladys Elphick Award (lifetime achievement)
2016 Finalist (collaborative), NATSIA Award
2009 Me and My Toyota Art Prize - Toyota Australia