

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

CV

EILEEN YARITJA STEVENS



01/10/1915- 19/02/2008

Place of Birth: Makiri

Language: Pitjantjatjra

Community: Nyapari, SA

Stevens was born sometime in the 1910s. She was born at Makiri, in the north-west corner of South Australia between what are now the communities of Kaltjiti and Watarru. Her father was a Yankunytjatjara man, and her mother was Ngaanyatjarra, but Stevens described herself as belonging to the Pitjantjatjara.

Stevens grew up in the bush, living a traditional, nomadic way of life. When she was a young woman, her family settled at Ernabella, which was a Presbyterian mission at the time.

She worked there milking goats. Her husband, who she met whilst living at Ernabella, also worked there chopping trees for use in building projects.^[1] The couple later moved to Nyapari after it was established in the mid-1970s. This area was her husband's Dreaming country (homeland),¹ and although she often made visits to her own birthplace, Stevens would live at Nyapari for the rest of her life.

Stevens did not begin painting professionally until 2004, very late in her life. Her husband had died by then, and Stevens had become close friends with the founding artist Wingu Tingima who had already established herself as an artist in the founding Western APY Lands community of Irruntju.

The two women began to paint for Nyapari's art centre, Tjungu Palya, after it was opened in 2006. They often painted alongside one another, sharing creative ideas and travelling to their exhibitions together. Eileen's daughter, Yaritja Stevens, was married to Tingima's son; and the two shared grandchildren.

Stevens had a short career of less than four years. However, her art had immediate success in exhibitions in Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and Adelaide. Her only solo exhibition was held in October 2007, less than a year before her death at Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2011 'Strong Women Strong Painting Strong Culture' Sims Dickson Collection, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre,

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New South Wales.

2011 'Green' Outstation Gallery, Darwin, Northern Territory.

2011 'Living Water' National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia

2011 'Tjungu Palya 2011' Short St Gallery, Broome, Western Australia

2010 'Partnerships' Marshall Arts, Adelaide, South Australia

2010 'Tjukurpa Pulkatjara: The Power of the Law' South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia

2010 'Desert Country' South Australian Art Gallery, Adelaide, SA

2010 'Raft Launch' Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, Northern Territory.

2010 'Desert Country' Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, South Australia.

2010 'Inma Mantangka Ngarinyi - Song of the Land' Putipula Gallery, Noosa, Queensland.

2010 'Australian Contemporary Indigenous Art - Now' Chiaroscuro Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA in conjunction with Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria.

2009 'Kulini Ngura - Knowing Country' Short St Gallery, Broome, Western Australia

2009 'Wanampiku Munu Kalayaku Ngura' Chapman Gallery, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory.

2009 'Tjukurpa Wirunya Kanyini' Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney, New South Wales.

2009 'Masterstroke' Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, Western Australia

2009 'Celebrating Country: Kinship and Culture' Seymour College exhibition, Adelaide, South Australia.

2008 'Tjukurpa Kutjupa Kutjupa Tjuta', Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney.

2008 'Manta Nyangatja Pitjantjatjara' Short St Gallery, Broome, Western Australia

2008 'Tjukurpa Kunpu', Marshall Arts, Adelaide.

2008 'Anangu Backyard- Stories for Children', Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide.

2008 'The Ecologies Project' Monash University Museum of Art, Victoria

2008 'Iwara Mantangka - Land Lines' Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, Western Australia

2008 'Womens Show', Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne.

2008 'Expressions of Cultural Connections: Evolution of Aboriginal Artists' The American Club, ReDot Gallery, Singapore

2008 'Tjungu Palyaku Warka Nyuwana' ReDot Gallery, Singapore

2007 'Skin to Skin', Tuggeranong Arts Centre, Canberra.

2007 'Piltati', Marshall Arts, Adelaide.

2007 'Nganampa Nguraku Tjukurpa', Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney.

2007 'Our Mob', Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide.

2007 'Womens Show', Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne.

2007 'Desert Mob' Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs.

2007 'Desert Master Class' South Australian Museum

2007 'Celebration' Chapman Gallery, Canberra.

2007 'Uwankara Ngura Palya', Randall Lane Fine Art, Perth.

2007 'Spring Art', Loreto School, Adelaide.

2007 'Red Dirt Country', Museum of Modern Art, Spoleto, Italy.

2006 'Womens Show', Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne.

2006 'Anangu Backyard', Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide.

2006 'Minyma Kutjara Kutjara' Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne.

2006 'Our Mob', Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide.

2006 'Desert Mob' Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs.

2006 'Tjukurpa Manatja', Randall Lane Fine Art, Perth.

2006 'Nganampa Tjukurpa Nganampa Ngura' Marshall Arts, Adelaide.

2005 'Nganampa Ngura', Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney.

2005 'New Work from the APY Lands', South Australian Museum, Adelaide.

2005 'Womens Show', Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne.

2005 'Desert Mob' Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs.

2005 'Art from the APY Lands', Marshall Arts, Adelaide.

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2004 'Summer Salon', Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne.

ARALUEN GALLERY, ALICE SPRINGS, NORTHERN TERRITORY
IAN BERNDT COLLECTION, PERTH, WESTERNAUSTRALIA
KAPLAN-LEVI COLLECTION, SEATTLE, USA
THE ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, SA
THE ART GALLERY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH, WA
THE LEPLEY COLLECTION, PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.
THE MARSHALL COLLECTION ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA
THE MERENDA COLLECTION. WA
THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA,
THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, VIC
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