

# EVERYWHEN ART

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

### Dadda Samson



Birth Date: 1940

Place of Birth: Old Jigalong

Language: Kartujarra

Dadda was born around 1933 at Old Jigalong, a ration depot situated on the Rabbit Proof Fence before the Jigalong Mission was established. She walked around the country east of Jila Kurru with her mother, father and three brothers. Her parents were both Kartujarra. Dadda's old father heard that there were rations at Jigalong and took his family there for flour, tea and sugar. When the family left the desert and walked to Jigalong they met up with the Samson, Kelly, Jeffries, Atkins, Sammy and Kadibil families who are also all Kartujarra people. Dadda went to school for a short time and was taught by Mrs Battye who she says was a very good teacher and Jigalong's first school teacher. Her husband worked with camels at Old Jigalong and he and his brother were bosses for Jigalong Station. Dadda worked on stations including Sylvania Station with her first husband who was a camel handler and her second husband who was an excellent horseman and a drover for cattle, he also worked as a rancher, looking after Martu country. She has outlived both of them. She stayed around Jigalong and continues to live there with her children and many grandchildren. Dadda is a very senior woman in Jigalong and manages the community's art shed while maintaining her own consummate arts practice.

### Exhibitions

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

2014 My Country: Contemporary Art from Black Australia, Auckland Art Gallery, Toi o Tamaki, New Zealand

2013 Painting It Martu Way, Art Mob, Hobart, TAS

2013 My Country, I Still Call Australia Home: Contemporary Art from Black Australia, Gallery of Modern Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD

2012 Spring Salon, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

2012 Deserts & Rivers, FORM Gallery, Perth, WA

2012 Martumili Artists 2012, Merenda Gallery, Perth, WA

2012 Desert Mob, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT

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

2012 Selected works by the Martumili Artists, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, NT

2012 Martumili Artists at Art Mob, Art Mob, Hobart, TAS

2011 Yiwarra Kuju – One Road, One People, Australian Museum, Sydney, NSW

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, WA

2011 Martumili Artists, Outback Fusion Festival, Newman, WA

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2011 Living Water – Contemporary Art of the Far Western Desert, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC  
2011 Green, Outstation, Darwin, NT  
2010 Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana (We walk together as friends), Waterhole Art, Sydney, NSW  
2010 Edge of the Lake, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA  
2010 Jakulpa laju kartyinpa (Bringing a message), Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT  
2010 Yiwarra Kuju – One Road, One People, National Museum of Australia, Canberra, ACT  
2010 Martumili Group Exhibition, AP Bond Gallery, Adelaide, SA  
2010 Desert Mob, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT  
2010 Martumili Group Exhibition, Redot Art Gallery, Singapore  
2009 Yankuni Laju Karnkani Kujungka (We are travelling together by Air), Red Dot Gallery, Singapore  
2009 Warranpalampaju kayili yaninpa (Our Country travelling north), Raft Art Space, Darwin, NT  
2009 Warranpalampa (Our Country), William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, VIC  
2009 Wangka-Lampaju (Our Story), Randell Lane Gallery, Perth, WA  
2009 Nintijunu (Teaching), Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW  
2009 Puntu kurnu (Belongs to the people), Newman Visitors Centre, Newman, WA  
2008 Laltu tujuparaku, yulpalpa yirnaparaku (Lots of women, little bit men), Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW  
2008 Martumili Artists, Port Hedland Courthouse Arts Centre and Gallery, Port Hedland, WA  
2008 Ngurra waltja wakarni (We are painting country), Short St Gallery, Broome, WA  
2008 Jitirangu (Rainbow), Randell Lane Gallery, Perth, WA  
2007 Martu-la wakarnu kuwarri wiyaju, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, VIC

## Themes

Bondini, Rabbit Proof Fence, Jila Kurru, Kuparura, Mantaru nyirrnunya  
Mirriyawalla, Milylirri, Milyawarra/i, Miriyawa warla, Muntaru  
Mungulu, Nalpurkura, Nyanuna, Pindili Bore, Pirti Lirti, Puntawarri  
Rabbit Proof Fence on the way to Jigalong, Rockhole where I got lost, Pulka  
Sunday Well, Warajuku, Warrarn/pa, Wilarnarri, Yulpu Warla

## Collections

MONASH UNIVERSITY  
NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA  
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA