

Short St. Gallery

Cynthia Burke

Born c. 1973
Region Warakurna, WA



Biography

Cynthia Burke is an artist belonging to the Ngaanyatjarra language and cultural group, who's creative and arts practice covers a broad range of disciplines.

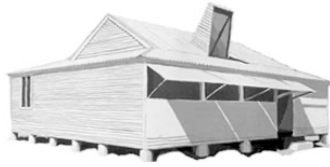
Cynthia was first taught weaving skills by her mother, the renowned artist and Tjanpi staff member, Jean Burke (dec.). In 2013, Cynthia contributed weaving and media skills to Tjilkamarta Minyma Kutjarra Munu Wati Ngimtaka Warta (Two Porcupine Wives and Perentie Man Tree), which was exhibited as part of the String Theory exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney NSW. Other notable exhibitions Cynthia has been involved in include Fingers and Petals at Ellenbrook Gallery in Perth in 2013; Revealed at Fremantle Arts Centre in 2017, 2018 and 2019; AIATSIS – Resurgence at the National Museum of Australia, Canberra ACT in 2019; the four-year national and international travelling exhibition Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters, and Kungkarangkalpa: Seven Sisters, commissioned for the National Gallery of Australia's Know My Name: Australian Women Artists : 1900 to Now.

Cynthia was also a finalist in the 2014 Blake Prize, the 2015 Outback Open Prize at the Broken Hill Art Gallery NSW and was one of the artists to win the 2022 Sydney Film Festival AFTRS Craft Award for her work in the Tjanpi animation, Tangki.

For a number of years, Cynthia has painted for Warakurna Artists and has exhibited her paintings all over Australia and overseas. Likewise, she has nationally exhibited her punu (wood carvings) with Maruku Arts.

In 2016, Cynthia began working with Tjanpi Desert Weavers at the remote office in Warakurna. In this time, she has learnt to run the core operations of this office and visits over eight communities to support Tjanpi artists. She also co-produced the Tjanpi animation Ngayuku Papa with animator Jonathan Daw, telling the story of her dog, Tiny, as well as being a key collaborating artist in a project with FORM and Polyglot Theatre.

Cynthia was born in Alice Springs in 1973 and now spends her time between Warakurna and Irnyntju (Wingellina) communities in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands of Western Australia.



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Cynthia has worked for Ngaanyatjarra Media as a camera operator and radio announcer, presenting a weekly radio program of local music and news. In 2013, Cynthia won the radio broadcasting award at the 15th National Remote Indigenous Media Festival Awards for Best Emerging Radio Talent NG Media and in 2011 Cynthia won the Festival Troy Albert Award for Excellence in Cinematography for works presented on ICTV, the Indigenous Community Television station of Australia.

Cynthia is a level-headed and compassionate woman and an amazing advocate for Tjanpi Desert Weavers. Through Cynthia's hard work and dedication, a new generation of weavers is emerging as highly skilled and creative business woman.

Group Exhibitions

2022	Desert Mob 2022, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
2022	Fibre Fun!, Everywhen Artspace, Flinders, VIC
2022	Punu Pukurlpa, Deletaille Gallery, Brussels, Belgium
2020	Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters, Touring Exhibition 2020 – 2024
2020	Joy, Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, NSW
2020	Know My Name: Australian Women Artists : 1900 to Now, National Gallery of Australia, ACT
2020	Wrapped, Woven and Wound, The JamFactory, Adelaide SA
2019	AIATSIS - Resurgence, National Museum of Australia, Canberra, ACT
2019	Ngalya/Together, Koskela, Sydney, NSW
2019	Revealed: Emerging Indigenous Artists of WA, Fremantle Arts Centre, Fremantle WA
2018	Animaze, Fremantle Arts Centre, Fremantle Arts Centre, Fremantle WA
2018	Revealed: Emerging Indigenous Artists of WA, Fremantle Arts Centre, Fremantle WA
2017	Revealed: Emerging Indigenous Artists of WA, Fremantle Arts Centre, Fremantle WA
2013	Fingers and Petals - The Handmade Flower Show, The Gallery Edenbrook, WA

Collections

Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
National Gallery of Australia

Awards

2022	Sydney Film Festival, AFTRS Craft Award, NSW
2015	Outback Open Prize (finalist), Broken Hill Art Gallery, NSW
2014	The Blake Prize (finalist)



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Commissions

- 2020 Kungkarangkalpa: Seven Sisters, National Gallery of Australia, collaborative work
- 2017 Seven Sisters, National Museum of Australia, collaborative work, national and international touring exhibition