



Short St. Gallery



Jennifer Nginyaka Mitchell

Born 1958
Language Pitjantjatjara
Region Alice Springs

Jennifer was born in c1955 at Kala Tjuti near Iruntju (Wingelina) in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands. Kala Tjuti is an important place culturally as it is the site of the Emu dreaming place and the Wati Kutjara dreaming story.

As a child she travelled across the Ngaanyatjarra Lands, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunyatjarra Lands (APY Lands) with her family and was near Maralinga when atomic rocket testing was conducted by the British, American and Australian Defense Forces in the 1950s. Her grandfather became ill from the radioactive fallout and died soon after. Having returned from Oodnadatta, SA Jennifer and her family hid away in wiltja (bush shelters) at Watinuma to be safe from the bomb.

Jennifer remembers hiding during the day, only coming out at night when the smoke was gone. She said her eyes stung after the bomb. They were helped by Mr McDonald a government official who made sure the Aboriginal people were well away, over the range, from the test site.

Jennifer became a senior custodian of the Kuru Ala Seven Sisters site after her mother Eileen Tjayanka Woods passed away.

She started making tjanpi (grass) baskets in 1995 and has been painting since 2008. Jennifer is also an accomplished basket-maker and sculptor (animated dogs and caricatures of people) out of wool and grass.

Group Exhibitions

2021 2021 Arts Law Biennial Art Sale Fundraiser – Featuring "Kungkarrangkalpa" (Seven Sisters)



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- 2021 Desert Mob: Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2019 Nganana rawanguku altaja warkaripai - we have been doing this (painting) for a long time: Art Mob, Hobart
- 2016 Pro Community - Ngaanyatjarra Lands: Touring exhibition, ARTKELCH, Germany - ARTKELCH, Freiburg; Museum Fünf Kontinente, München; ARTKELCH, Collectors Lounge Schorndorf, Germany
- 2015 Tjirntu Tjarrpanguru Tjirntu Pakalakuta-From Sunset to sunrise (from us to you): Purple Noon Gallery, NSW
- 2015 Hedland Art Award: Port Hedland, WA
- 2014 Ngaaykulam-Patju Tjamuku Kapiliku Jurkurpa: Wooloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane
- 2014 Desert Mob: Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2014 Emerging Artists from Western Australia: Marshall Arts, Adelaide, SA
- 2013 Marks in the Sand: Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide, SA
- 2013 Desert Mob: Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2013 Art from the Heart: Purple Noon Gallery, Freemans Reach, NSW
- 2012 Desert Mob: Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2012 Colours: Aritja Fine Art Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2012 Family Paintings: Art Mob, Hobart, VIC
- 2011 Seven Sisters: Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
- 2011 Desert Mob: Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2009 Desert Mob: Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT