



Short St. Gallery



Lydia Balbal

Born 1958
Language Mangala
Region Broome

Lydia Balbal is a Mangala woman. She was married to the Yulparija artist Nabiru Bullen until his death in 2009. Lydia's country is near Punmu in the Great Sandy Desert of W.A. Her people's existence was threatened by severe drought so that they had little choice but to leave their traditional country. Her family were some of the last to walk out to the coastal town of Bidyadanga (then La Grange Mission) located two hours south of Broome in the early 70s. Lydia first began painting in 2007 but has already received significant attention from collectors and the media alike.

Balbal explores jila (living water) located near the Percival Lakes in the Great Sandy Desert in Western Australia. It is an important gathering of the Yulparija and neighbouring groups where they would come together for rain making ceremonies. Other works in the collection highlight martakulu, a soak out near Punmu near the Canning Stock Route. This is strong woman's Country and part of the women's law line.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 Little Bit Long Way, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2024 Ali Yeldham, Sydney, NSW
- 2017 Lydia Balbal - Underground, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2017 Mangala Woman: Lydia Balbal, AirSpace Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2013 Pikarong: King Brown Country, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, VIC



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- 2012 Lydia Balbal/Strong Woman Country, IDAIA - International Development of Australian Indigenous Art, Paris
- 2010 Piti, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2009 Lydia Balbal Solo, Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 2008 Salt Lake Country, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2008 Lydia Balbal, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne Victoria

Group Exhibitions

- 2024 Who x Who – Art Leven, Sydney, NSW
- 2024 Telstra NATSIAA, MAGNT, Darwin, NT
- 2024 Revere, Regenerate, Reflect – St John of God Murdoch Hospital, Perth
- 2024 How to Swim, Edwina Corlette Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
- 2023 Ngura, JGM Gallery, London, Great Britain
- 2023 Voir L'Invisible, Musee d'Angoulême, France
- 2023 Pink is Punk – Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2022 Monument of Remembrance - Aboriginal art from Australia, Belgium Chocolate Village Museum in partnership with Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Belgium
- 2019 From the Desert to the Sea : a Journey with the Yulparitja, Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Brussels
- 2018 Le Pley Collection, Residence of the Australian Ambassador, Beijing, China
- 2017 Hedland Art Award, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, WA
- 2017 Songs of a Secret Country, Kluge-Ruhe Art Gallery, University of Virginia, USA
- 2017 Desert Colour 2017, Talapi, Alice Springs, NT
- 2017 Electric, Harvey Arts Projects, USA
- 2016 Parcours des Mondes, Estragin Fine Art, Paris, France
- 2015 OFF COURSE Art Fair, Brussels, Belgium
- 2014 Saltwater Soul Desert Heart, Short St Gallery Broome, WA
- 2014 Country to Coast; Colours of the Kimberley, Aboriginal Art Museum - Utrecht, curated by Georges Petitjean
- 2014 Dreamings: Arte Aborigena Australiana incontra de Chirico (Aboriginal Australian art meets De Chirico), Museo Carlo Bilotti, Villa Borghese, Rome, 2013/2014
- 2014 Memoires vives. Une Historie de art Aborigene, Musee d'Acquitaine – Bordeaux
- 2013 Womens Show, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Victoria
- 2012 West of Well 33: Yaama Ganu Gallery, Sydney
- 2012 Luminous, World Contemporary Art from the West Farmers Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth WA
- 2012 WaterMark, the Signature of Life, IDAIA- International Development of Australian Indigenous Art, The Space, Hong Kong
- 2012 Luminescences: The Colour of Bidyadanga, Harvey Art Projects, Idaho, USA
- 2012 29th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory



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- 2012 Jan Billycan; Lydia Balbal, Arthouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2012 Un-acclimatised, Monash University Museum of Art at Switchback Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2012 Round and Round in that Rockhole, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2011 Aboriginal Art, ININTI in collaboration with IDAIA, International Development for Australian Indigenous Art, Madrid, Spain
- 2011 Australian Aboriginal Art: Painting from the Deserts, ININTI in collaboration with IDAIA, Madrid, Spain
- 2011 Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana Art Fair 2011, Sydney, NSW
- 2011 Hedland Art Awards, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, WA
- 2011 Summer Haze, JGM Galleries, London, UK
- 2011 Pearls, Paint; Ilma, Aratong Galleries, Australian High Commission, Singapore
- 2011 Remix, WA Contemporary Art, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, WA
- 2011 Kirriwirri, Aboriginal and Pacific Art Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2011 Green, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2011 Bidyadanga Recent Paintings, Chapman Gallery, Canberra ACT
- 2010 Bidyadanga Artists, Harvey Arts Projects, SunValley, Idaho, USA
- 2010 Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building. - Short St Gallery / William Mora Galleries present the Yulparija artists
- 2010 27th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Art Award, Musuem and Art Gallery of Northern Territory
- 2010 Royal Scottish Bank Emerging Art Award, Selected Finalist, Sydney NSW
- 2010 White, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2009 Short on Size, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2009 26th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, MAGNT, Darwin
- 2008 Bidyadanga Art Show, AP Bond Art, Adelaide, SA
- 2008 From Desert to Saltwater, Booker-Lowe Gallery, Houston Texas, USA
- 2008 25th Telstra National Aboriginal & AMP; Torres Strait Island Art Award, Musuem and Art Gallery of Northern Territory

Awards

- 2024 Winner – Telstra NATSIAA General Painting Award – Keeping up with the Balbals

Collections

- Deakin University Art Collection
- Murdoch University Art Collection Aboriginal Art Museum, The Netherlands
- Thomas Vroom Collection, The Netherlands
- National Gallery of Victoria Felton Collection
- Queensland Art Gallery
- Laverly Collection



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Artbank
Monash University Art Collection
Lepley Collection
Western Australian Art Gallery
National Gallery of Australia
Wesfarmers Collection
Australia Parliament House Collection
Brocard - Estrangin Collection
Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia

Bibliography

August 2024 National Indigenous Times, MAGNT Winner
August 2024 Gouldburn Post, MAGNT Winner
August 2024 Northern Daily Leader, MAGNT Winner
August 2024 The Senior Broadsheet, MAGNT Winner
August 2024 The Guardian, MAGNT Winner
August 2024 The Design Files, MAGNT Winner
August 2024 The New York Time Style Magazine: Australia, MAGNT Winner
August 2024 Artshub, MAGNT Winner
August 2024 Time Out Magazine, MAGNT Winner
Dreamings: Arte Aborigena Australiana incontra de Chirico (Aboriginal Australian art meets De Chirico), Museo Carlo Bilotti, Catalogue 2014,
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-09-17/indigenous-art-funds-scholarships/2904404>
Art Monthly, Laverty 2: A Brave New aesthetic world, Jeremy Eccles, September 2011
Beyond Sacred, Australian Aboriginal Art, Colin & Elizabeth Laverty, 2011
Art Monthly, Green at Darwin Outstation, Skye Raab, May 1 2011
Nicolas Rothwell, Journeys to the Interior Black Inc, Australia, 2010
The Australian Newspaper, Revelatory Show of Strength in Tradition, Nicholas Rothwell, August 16, 2010
The Australian Newspaper, Turning Landscape on its Head, Nicholas Rothwell, December 8 2008
The Australian Newspaper, In the Shadow of Modernity, Nicholas Rothwell, December 13, 2008



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The Age Newspaper, Dreamtime Designers, Bruce Elder, March 15 2008