



Short St. Gallery



Nancy Nyanjilpayi (Ngarnjapayi) Chapman

Birth Year 1941
Language Group Manyjilyjarra
Region The Pilbara, WA

"When I was little, I used to stand up all the time, looking for the old people to come back bringing food. The old people gave me that name, Nyanjilpayi ['standing up']."

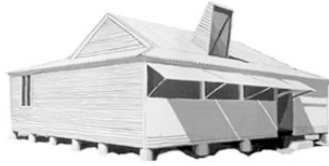
- Nyanjilpayi (Ngarnjapayi) Nancy Chapman

"When I was born my spirit appeared at Jarntinti. That's my Country, Jarntinti. I know all about it, about that water over there, about my home, our grandparent's Country. We travelled all around as pujiman, camping and then setting off again by foot. We didn't get tired. We just kept on going. Sometimes it would rain, so we would build a shelter, just like a tent. Inside we would light a fire. Our pujiman lifestyle was very healthy and we didn't get sick very often. Even when it was cold we continued to walk around in good health.

I'm working on my painting of those waterholes; I was drinking from them long ago as a pujiman. My family's water, my grandmother's, my grandfathers and my ancestors. I was taught from them. Our knowledge is ancient and has been passed on by our grandparents. Young people need to keep looking after it."

- Nyanjilpayi Nancy Chapman as translated by Kanyirninpa Jukurrpa

Nyanjilpayi is a Manyjilyjarra woman, born in the 1940s at Jarntinti, a large claypan at the southern end of Nyayartakujarra (Lake Dora) and within the Karlamilyi (Rudall River) region. She



Short St. Gallery

is the sister of Artists Mulyatingki Marney, Mayiwalku Chapman and Marjorie Yates (dec.). As children, Nyanjilpayi and her family walked around the Punmu, Kunawaritji (Canning Stock Route Well 33) and Karlamilyi regions. A severe and prolonged drought extended through many years during this formative period in her life, and Nyanjilpayi remembers this as a difficult time. Although her family knew about the mission at Jigalong, where a supply of rationed food and water was assured, they chose to continue to live nomadically and independently for many years.

Both of Nyanjilpayi's parents passed away when she and her siblings were still very young, leaving them to survive by themselves in the desert. For a time, the sisters travelled alone, occasionally meeting and travelling with other people and family groups that cared for them, including renowned artists Eubena Nampitjin (dec.) and Nora Nungabar (Nyangapa) (dec.).

Finally, Nyanjilpayi and her sisters decided to walk to Balfour Downs, where they were collected by Jigalong Mission staff. At Jigalong, Nyanjilpayi met her husband Minyawwe Miller. From there the couple lived and worked together on several cattle stations throughout the Pilbara, and mined for minerals with a *yandy* (winnowing dish) whilst raising their children. As a family they relocated to Punmu Aboriginal community as foundational members during the 'Return to Country' movement of the 1980's, where they lived for many years before moving between Newman and Port Hedland in more recent times.

Nyanjilpayi is known for her energetic, diverse, and experimental approach to painting, and has developed a range of unique and technically sophisticated styles. Nyanjilpayi's artworks depict her *ngurra* (home Country, camp), the Country she walked as a young woman; its animals, plants, waterholes and associated Jukurpa (Dreaming) narratives. Her work has been exhibited widely across Australia and internationally and has been acquired by the National Museum of Australia.

Group Exhibitions

2024	Martumili Artists at Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
2023	Dancing For Our Country, Yaama Ganu, Moree, NSW
2023	Songlines – Peintures Aborigenes Du Desert Australien, Passage du Grand Cerf, Paris, France
2023	Desert Mob 2023, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
2023	TDF Collect Presents: 'Martumili Artists', Collingwood, VIC
2023	We Didn't Get Tired. We Just Kept Going, FORM Gallery, Claremont, WA
2023	Crossing Country, Artija Fine Art Gallery, South Fremantle, WA
2023	Songlines - Centres dart du desert australien, IDAIA/ Australian Embassy, Paris, France
2022	Rawa – A long time, Aboriginal Contemporary, Sydney, NSW



Short St. Gallery

- 2022 Marlakuringu - Return / Come Back, Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree, NSW
- 2022 Tracks We Share
- 2021 Martumili Mob, The Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, WA
- 2021 Warralong, Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree, NSW
- 2021 Paper Wangka (Paper Story), Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA
- 2020 Contemporary Desert Art, Dellasposa, London, UK
- 2019 Salon Des Refuses 2019, Darwin, NT
- 2019 Nyumma (burnt Country), Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2018 Hedland Art Award, The Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, WA
- 2018 Desert Mob 2019, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2018 Warla Tuwa, Aboriginal Contemporary, Bronte, NSW
- 2018 Martuku Ninti (Martu Knowledge), Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2018 Pujiman, Martumili Artists and Spinifex Hill Artists, Port Hedland Courthouse Gallery, WA
- 2017 Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters, touring exhibition from National Museum of Australia, Canberra, ACT
- 2017 Desert Mob, Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2017 After The Rains, Martumili Gallery, Newman, WA
- 2016 Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2015 Pukuripa - Good Inside, Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree, NSW
- 2015 The Summer Collectors Show 2015, McCulloch & McCulluch Gallery, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
- 2014 Malya Yuturingu; be a star, State Theatre Centre, Perth, WA
- 2013 Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2013 Martumili Art Show, Newman Visitors Centre, Newman, WA
- 2013 Painting It Martu Way, Art Mob, Hobart, TAS
- 2012 We Don't Need A Map: a Martu experience of the Western Desert, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2012 Martumili Artists 2012, Merenda Gallery, Perth, WA
- 2012 Desert Mob, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 2012 Warla: an explanation of the salt lakes in the Great Sandy Desert, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2012 Martumili Artists at Art Mob, Art Mob, Hobart, TAS
- 2011 Revealed – Emerging Aboriginal Artists from Western Australia, Gallery Central, Perth, WA
- 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, USA



Short St. Gallery

2011	Yiwarra Kuju – One Road, One People, Perth Convention Exhibition Centre, Perth, WA
2011	Desert Mob, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT
2011	Living Water – Contemporary Art of the Far Western Desert, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
2010	Jakuppa laju kartyinpa (Bringing a message), Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
2010	Yiwarra Kuju – One Road, One People, National Museum of Australia, Canberra, ACT
2010	Before and After Science, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide Biennial 2010, SA
2010	Martumili Group Exhibition, Redot Art Gallery, Singapore
2009	Warranpalampaju kayili yaninpa (Our Country travelling north), Raft Art Space, Darwin, NT
2009	Yankuni laju kamkani kujungka (We are travelling together by air), Red Dot Gallery, Singapore
2009	Wangka-Lampaju (Our Story), Randell Lane Gallery, Perth, WA
2009	Nintijunu (Teaching), Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW
2009	Puntu kumu (Belongs to the people), Newman Visitors Centre, Newman, WA
2008	Martumili Artists, Port Hedland Courthouse Arts Centre and Gallery, Port Hedland, WA
2008	Martumili Artists Recent Works, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
2008	Jitirangu (Rainbow), Randell Lane Gallery, Perth, WA
2008	Laltu tujuparaku, yulpalpa yimparaku (Lots of women, little bit men), Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney, NSW
2007	Martu-la wakamu kuwarri wiyaju, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, VIC

Collections

Art Gallery of Western Australia
National Museum of Australia

Awards

2018 Kathy Donnelly Award, Hedland Art Awards