



Short St. Gallery



Angilyiya Mitchell

Born 1953
Language Pitjantjatjara
Region Alice Springs

Angilyiya was born near to Blackstone Ranges in Emu Country near Kunmamarra Bore. There is important men's Dreaming in this country which is a traditional law area. She is a strong Law woman with wonderful bush skills, holding a wealth of traditional knowledge and capacity to live on this land. Angilyiya is the senior caretaker for important woman's dreaming places, linked to the Seven Sisters story.

Angilyiya's father had four wives and her mother was the third. As a result she has a number of siblings and she shares the same father as Anawari Inpiti Mitchell.

She created her first painting in 1994 and has been consistently active as an artist since and has also made limited edition prints. She is energetic and takes an interest in many things and has turned her hand to wood carving to make punu (small wood sculptures) and wira (bowls) and making bush medicines. She sources camel fat from the contractors who manage the feral camel population to use in bush medicine, boiling it up in water.

She is very active in teaching and mentoring in language, culture and heritage. She is frequently called upon by the local Land Management team to come on trips and 'talk for rockholes' because of her knowledge of country/sites and ability to teach about ethnobotany and share Tjukurpa (ancestral creation) stories. She says she is the 'only one left to teach young people'.

She has also been a keen member of NPY Women's Council and of Tjanpi Desert Weavers (TDW) making sculptural objects such as baskets and animal figures out of natural fibre, tjanpi (local grasses), raffia and wool.

Angilyiya has been commissioned to contribute to major projects including creating a grass Toyota that won first prize in the 2005 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art (NATSIA) Awards. It was a collective work created by 18 women from Papulankutja/Blackstone



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(WA) and was acquired by the Museum and Art Gallery NT as part of their permanent collection. This was the first time a contemporary fibre art piece took the major prize in the history of this prestigious award.

Angilyiya was also a part of the Seven Sisters Songline creating a tjanpi female sculptural figure - one of the Seven Sisters of the Tjukurpa - for the extraordinary multi-faceted National Museum of Australia (NMA) Songlines exhibition that was on display at the NMA in Canberra from 2017 to 2018. The sculptures can be seen online as actual objects and have also been digitised as characters in a video.

Group Exhibitions

- 2024 Revealed 2024
- 2022 2022 Bayside Acquisitive Art Prize: Finalist
- 2020 Tarnanthis: Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
- 2020 The Gift of Story: Artitja Fine Art Gallery, Fremantle
- 2020 Summer Salon: Artitja Fine Art Gallery, Perth
- 2020 Desert Mob 2020: Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2020 Spring York 20202: Artitja Fine Art Gallery, York, WA
- 2020 Our Land Our Place: Council House, Artitja Fine Art Gallery, Perth
- 2019 Nganana rawangku altaja warkaripai - we have been doing this (painting) for a long time: Art Mob, Hobart
- 2019 Desert Mob 2019: Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs NT
- 2018 Desert Mob 2018, Araluen Centre Alice Springs NT
- 2018 Revealed Exhibition - New and Emerging WA Aboriginal Artists: Fremantle Arts Centre
- 2017 Desert Mob 2017: Araluen Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2016 Desert Mob 2016: Araluen Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2016 Desert Mob 2016: Araluen Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 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 - Tarnanthis Textiles: Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide - Fabric Exhibition as part of the Festival of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Art
- 2015 Desert Mob 2016: Araluen Centre, Alice Springs NT - Araluen Alice Springs
- 2015 Desert Mob 2015: Araluen Centre, Alice Springs NT - Collaborative Work
- 2015 Radiance: Form, Perth - Form Perth
- 2015 General Exhibition: Tunbridge Gallery, Perth - Tunbridge Gallery Perth
- 2015 Dots, Dots, Dots und Punkte des Holzwurms: ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
- 2015 Revealed: Central Gallery, Perth



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- 2014 Ngaaykulam-Patju Tjamuku Kapiliku Jurkurpa: Wooloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane
- 2013 Three Days Three Centres Our Jouney: Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree, NSW
- 2013 Marks in the Sand: Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide - An exhibition of prints and canvases showing how the stories start from those those Marks in the Sand Desert Mob 2013: Araluen Centre Alice Springs NT
- 2013 Desert Mob 2013: Araluen Centre Alice Springs NT
- 2012 Desert Mob 2012, Araluen Centre Alice Springs, NT
- 2012 Papulankutja Group show: Purple Noon Gallery, NSW
- 2012 Colours: Aritja Gallery Fremantle
- 2012 Family Paintings: Art Mob Hobart
- 2011 Papulankutja Artists: Merenda Gallery Freemantle
- 2011 Papulankutja Group Show: Chapman Gallery, Canberra
- 2011 Desert Mob 2011: Araluen Centre Alice Springs
- 2011 Western Desert Exhibition: Art Mob, Hobart - Seven Sisters: Chapman Gallery, Canberra
- 2010 Papulankutja Artists: Birrung Gallery, Sydney, - Group show
- 2010 Papulankutja Artists: Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River - Group show
- 2010 Papulankutja Artists: William Mora Gallery, Melbourne - Group show
- 2010 Paint Right-Way: Chapman Art Gallery, Canberra - Papulankutja Artists Group Exhibition
- 2010 Western Desert Mob Group Exhibition: Outstation Art Gallery, Darwin
- 2009 Desert Mob 2009: Araluen Centre, Alice Springs
- 2008 Desert Mob 2008: Araluen Centre, Alice Springs
- 2008 We are celebrating: Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide
- 2008 Papulankutja Artists: Dickerson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2007 Fringe Festival exhibition: Marshall Art, Adelaide
- 2007 Desert Mob, Araluen Cultural Centre, Alice Springs
- 2006 Western Desert Satellites: Art Gallery of Western Australia
- 2006 Desert Mob 2006: Araluen Centre, Alice Springs
- 2005 Lirru Puru Kuniya Tjukurpa: Perth
- 2005 Blackstone Ladies: On shore Art, Richmond
- 2005 Female Artists of Blackstone: Cooee Aboriginal Art, Sydney
- 2005 Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA): Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. Darwin
- 2004 Desert Mob 2004: Araluen Centre, Alice Springs
- 2003 Desert Mob 2003: Araluen Centre, Alice Springs

Collections

Art Gallery Western Australia
Gavan Fox Collection
James McCourt Collection



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Merenda Collection
National Gallery of Australia Prints
National Museum of Australia Collection
Swift Lagerberg Collection

Bibliography

- 2012 Acker, T & Carty, J (eds.) 2012, Ngaanyatjarra Art of the Lands, UWAP, Crawley, WA
- 2004 Catalogue, The National Gallery, Canberra Print, Canberra ACT
- 2005 Gallery of Western Australia (Tjanpi catalogue)
- 2016 Kelch, J 2016, Pro Community-Ngaanyatjarra Lands, exhibition catalogue, ARTKELCH, Germany
- 2017 Neale, M (ed.) 2017, Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters, National Museum of Australia Press, Canberra, ACT