

Art, words and photos from  
Central Australian Aboriginal Art Centres

Quarterly edition, July 2019

# THE DESART RADAR



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## Tapatjatjaka Arts: Big Stockman, all lit up!

David Wallace and his son Frances Wallace share the story of making giant nanja (horses) and cowboy wire sculptures, lit up for *Angkentye Stockmen Mape-kenhe – The Language of Stockmen* at Parrtjima 2019.

*“Long time we’ve been riding horses and started making small ones with wire back when we were little boys. I (David) was born in Santa Teresa back in the 70s. We didn’t have toys or phones back then. Little horses were what we played with out bush. Our cousin brothers at Santa Teresa make horses like this too. Our communities are connected through family.*

*We both make small horses at our art centre, Tapatjatjaka. Sometimes we make them at home too. Little kids don’t play with them anymore, we sell them as our art. We make birds and junba (goanna) too.*

*This is our first time making big horses, it’s hard making big ones, our hands get sore and tired. We’ve been working together, all of us, to make big ones. The hat of the big Cowboy you see, we made that out of a car bonnet.”*

Image: Tapatjatjaka artists Johnny Young and David Wallace with their sculptures at Parrtjima 2019. Photo courtesy of Parrtjima/NT Major Events.

Image: Vincent Namatjira with his winning entry. Image courtesy of Iwantja Arts.



## Vincent Namatjira – Winner of the Ramsay Prize 2019

Congratulations to Vincent Namatjira of Iwantja Arts, winner of the Ramsay Art Prize 2019. Vincent’s winning entry, *Close Contact*, is a portrait in acrylic paint on plywood, mirrored by a portrait of Captain James Cook. Guest judge Russell Storer commended the work for its *“directness and clarity, but also for its wit and complexity”*:

*[It’s] a startling self-portrait combining painting and sculpture, and as such represents a major shift in Vincent’s practice. Cook is represented as a persistent shadow of the artist showing how Indigenous and white Australia are inextricably linked by history, but also in the present. Vincent’s thumbs-up stance expresses resilience and humour, crucial strategies for resistance and survival.*

Speaking to the ABC, Vincent reflected on his win: *Winning this prize means a lot to me and it will hopefully create more opportunities for me to continue to make more ambitious work and to share my practice with new audiences. I also hope to use my position to create opportunities for other young artists in remote Indigenous communities. I can honestly say that becoming an artist turned my life around and now I want to be a leader and a role model for the next generation of young artists.*

Image: Warumungu dancers at the reopening of Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre, Tennant Creek.



## Tennant Creek Celebrates Reopening of Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre

The Warumungu people have celebrated the reopening of the Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre in Tennant Creek after closing for renovations. The official launch was kicked off with an introduction by MC Jimmy Frank, followed by a Welcome to Country by Traditional Owner Kym Brahim. The proceedings were well attended with over 200 people, mainly from the local Indigenous community. The event included a very special smoking ceremony led by Annie Morrison through the buildings, a smoking of local babies, music from Warren H Williams and traditional dance performances by both the men and women followed by a traditional meal of beef stew, kangaroo tail and damper.

*“It makes our people happy to be able to show visitors Warumungu culture and language, this place is not only for tourists but for our own people to protect and honour who we are and our country”* said Jerry Kelly, a local Warumungu man who works as a tour guide at Nyinkka Nyunyu.



Image (right): Nyinkka Nyunyu reopening.



## Desert Satellites at the Northern Centre for Contemporary Art

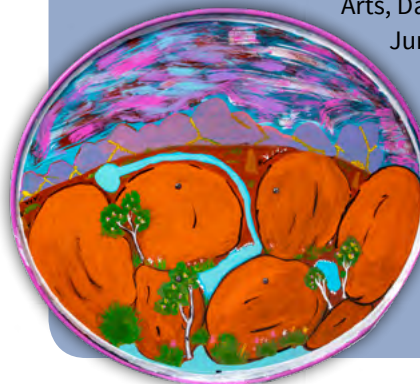
Desert Satellites, a group exhibition from Barkly artists Susannah Nelson, Lindy Brodie, Ruth Dawson, and Janet Thompson, features painted satellite dishes recycled from the self-build houses of

Wutungurra, a remote community located 500km north of Alice Springs. The obsolescence of the materials references the issue of housing in remote communities, and invited the response of Gerry McCarthy, NT Minister for Housing and Community Development, and former teacher at Epenarra:

*As a teacher at Epenarra in the 1980s, I gave some of the artists their first paper and crayons, so I am especially proud to see how their artistic careers have developed over the years. Thanks to Rita Macarounos and the NCCA, for supporting our Barkly artists and for showing me through the exhibition.*

– Gerry McCarthy

Desert Satellites was displayed at the Northern Centre for Contemporary Arts, Darwin in June 2019.



Images(clockwise from top): Janet Thompson, *Landscape*, 2018  
Susannah Nelson, *Filming Waterhole*, 2018, Lindy Brodie, *Daniel and the Fire*, 2018, Ruth Dawson, *Kunjarra (Pebbles)*, 2018.  
Images courtesy of the artists and Barkly Regional Arts



Image (above): Heather Anderson of Tartakula Arts. Image Desart.

Image (left): Susie Peterson of Epenarra with her certificate of appreciation awarded by Mayor Steve Edgington.

Image courtesy of William Thomson, Barkly Regional Arts.

## Barkly Artist Camp 2019

The annual Barkly Artist Camp saw great participation from Barkly region art centres – with batik, wood carving, bead making, weaving, photography & video classes and painting workshops on offer. A huge thanks to Barkly Arts, Artists of Ampilatawatja, Nyinkka Nyunyu and Arlpwe Art & Culture Centre, and to our workshop facilitators Jimmy Frank, Steven Pierce, Claire Freer and China de la Vega.

A special congratulations to Epenarra artist Susie Peterson, who was awarded a certificate of appreciation for her artwork being used on the cover of the Barkly Regional Deal publication, with the certificate delivered by Mayor Steve Edgington on the final day of the camp.

## Sally M. Nanagala Mulda features at Art Gallery of New South Wales

Tangentyere artist Sally Mulda has celebrated a big year, featuring in *The National 2019: New Australian Art* at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, and as a finalist in the prestigious Sir John Sulman Prize. An Arrernte/Southern Luritja woman, Mulda is renowned for her distinctive style pairing scenes from life in Alice Springs Town Camps with narratives in cursive text.

*Sally fills the gallery walls with the stories most are not willing to tell – not with the intention to guilt an audience, nor with a conscious decision to be a political artist, but simply by painting what she experiences. These are her true stories.*

– Tangentyere Artworker Terazita Turner-Young. Read the full artist text at [www.the-national.com.au/sally-m-nangala-mulda/town-camp-anywhere/](http://www.the-national.com.au/sally-m-nangala-mulda/town-camp-anywhere/)

Mulda's works will feature in Adelaide's *TARNANTHI: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art* in October. Edwina Corlette Gallery, Brisbane will be holding Mulda's solo exhibition from June 27.



Image: Sally Mulda, *Sally feeding little cat, mother cat*, 2019. Finalist in Sir John Sulman Prize 2019. Image courtesy the artist and Tangentyere Artists.

*This is me outside my home at Abbott's Town Camp in Alice Springs feeding my cats. Little cat, mother cat. One woman, my family, playing cards. Nobody bothering anybody. No papa bothering the cats! We are just sitting quietly. I like quiet. Nobody talking.*  
– Sally Mulda

## Key Dates

9 – 11 August	Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
2 – 5 September	Desert Female Art Workers' Curatorial Workshop
2 – 7 September	Desert Male Art Workers' Events Photography Workshop
4 September	Opening of Vincent Lingiari Art Award 2019: 'Our Country – True Story'
5 September	Desert Photography Prize Exhibition
5 September	Desert Mob Exhibition Opening
6 September	Desert Mob Symposium
7 September	Desert Mob Marketplace

Book your ticket now for the Desert Mob Symposium 2019, visit [desertmobsymposium2019.eventbrite.com](http://desertmobsymposium2019.eventbrite.com)

## Email blasts for Desert members

Keep up to date with industry news, grants, art prizes and competition opportunities. Email [programofficer@desart.com.au](mailto:programofficer@desart.com.au) if you're missing out on our grant and competition email blasts.

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