

Art, words and photos from
Central Australian Aboriginal art centres

Quarterly edition, July 2018

THE DESART RADAR



Culture First.

Supporting Aboriginal Art Centres
of Central Australia



Images: (Top): Staff and artists at the Barkly Artist Camp 2018. Image: James Henry, Desart.

(Bottom): Barkly landscape. Image by Ann-Maree Dixon, Kulumindini Art.

Barkly Artist Camp 2018

In May Desart and Barkly Regional Arts celebrated the tenth year of the annual Barkly Artist Camp. Held at Juno Camp, Tennant Creek, the camp attracted a good contingent of artists from Arlpwe, Tennant Creek, Epenarra, Elliott and Canteen Creek. The campers worked hard over the course of the week to develop a beautiful set of batik scarves and to hone their photography skills. Many thanks to our enthusiastic and knowledgeable workshops facilitators Alison Hittmann, James Henry and Miriam Charlie. Thanks also to our special guest Coby Edgar (Art Gallery of New South Wales), who delivered an excellent and well-received presentation on Aboriginal art photographers. Keep an eye out for batik scarves on display at the Desert Harmony Festival in August, and for photographs in the upcoming Desart Photography Prize.



Image: Sulman prize judge Angela Tiatia with Kaylene Whiskey and her winning entry 'Kaylene TV'. Image courtesy Iwantja Arts.

Congratulations Award Winners!

It's been an extraordinary year for Central Australian arts! Congratulations to the many Desert member artists who have been shortlisted for prestigious national art awards, and to Alec Baker (Iwantja Arts) for winning the 45th Musswellbrook Art Prize, to Kaylene Whiskey (Iwantja Arts) for winning the Sulman Prize (pictured above with judge Angela Tiatia) and to Yukultji Napangati (Papunya Tula) for taking out the Wynne Prize.

See overleaf for 'The Holy Trinity at Warlukirritjinya' by Linda Syddick (Tangentyere Artists), a finalist artwork in the 65th Blake Prize 2018.

Desart China Delegation

A business delegation comprising Philip Watkins (Desart CEO), Carmel Young (Desart International Program Manager), Otto Sims (Warlukurlangu Arts), Patrick Williams (Warlukurlangu Arts), Hayley Coulthard (Hermannsburg Potters), Beth Inkamala (Hermannsburg Potters), Isobel Gorey (Papunya Tjupi Arts) and Candy Nelson (Papunya Tjupi Arts) have recently returned from China, where they have been hard at work raising awareness of and promoting Central Australian Aboriginal art and culture. A series of lectures and workshops were delivered to staff and students of Tongji University, timed to coincide with a significant exhibition at the Tongji University Museum– ‘Red Soil Under Sun Glow – dialogue – Australian Indigenous and Chinese Artists’. Supported by the Northern Territory Department of Tourism and Culture, the Desart Asian Exchange Program seeks to foster artistic and market development for Aboriginal art in the Asia Pacific region.

Image: (L-R) Patrick Williams, Otto Sims, Candy Nelson, Isobel Gorey, Beth Inkamala and Hayley Coulthard. Image: Carmel Young, Desart.



Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands – Senior Men’s Project at Palm Valley

In May, Iltja Ntjarra senior artists Hubert Pereroutja and Mervyn Rubuntja visited Palm Valley with Studio Coordinator Elle Misios for a weekend painting trip, camping out over three chilly nights! The artists went on some beautiful sunset walks and viewed the country from the river beds and from the highest lookouts. The last time Mervyn saw Palm Valley was when he was a school boy. He described how the tourist buses would travel to Palm Valley in the 1950s and 1960s and drive to the ‘old fellas’ camp – where artists including Basil Rontji, Oscar Namatjira and Keith Namatjira would be painting. The tourists would buy paintings from the old people as they were working. Mervyn was happy to visit this special country again and took plenty of photos to share with his family. He’s cooking up a new solo exhibition based on these images – stay tuned! The camp was a lovely, peaceful and inspiring experience for the two senior painters. We are really looking forward to seeing what beautiful new works they produce from this trip!

Main image: Palm Valley. Image: Elle Misios, Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands.

Inset top: Hubert Pereroutja painting on country. Image: Elle Misios, Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands.

Inset bottom: Hubert Pereroutja and Mervyn Rubuntja painting on country at Palm Valley. Image: Elle Misios, Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands.





NGAYUKU
PAPA

Tjanpi Desert Weavers – Papa Tales

Papa Tales brings the unique artwork of Tjanpi Desert Weavers to life in the form of two short animated films. A collaboration between Tjanpi artists, animator Jonathan Daw, and Tjanpi Art Worker Cynthia Burke, these stop-motion animations combined with live action videos tell the tale of contemporary community life and the special role that dogs play in remote desert communities.



The first film premiered at the Ngaanyatarru Media Festival in Irrunytju (WA) last year and was more recently shown at Fremantle Arts

Centre during Revealed 2018, where Jonathan and Cynthia participated in an artists' talk. A second short film was recently completed and both works were on show at the Melbourne International Animation Festival in June.

The films will also feature at the South Australian Museum in an upcoming exhibition about Australians and their ever-faithful companion, the dog.

Animation stills from *Ngayuku Papa* by Jonathan Daw and Cynthia Burke. 2017. ©Tjanpi Desert Weavers, NPY Women's Council



Ikuntji Artists – Winner of Australian Small Business Champion Awards

Ikuntji Artists have been named Champion of Indigenous Business at the Australian Small Business Champion Gala Dinner & Awards Ceremony in April – the first art centre in 20 years of the awards to receive this recognition. The program aims to recognise outstanding Australian small business and encourages high standards of excellence in small business practice. Congratulations Ikuntji Artists for this well-deserved win!

Main image: (L-R) Roseranna Larry, Douglas Multa (Ikuntji Chairperson) and Virgillia Multa accept the award. Image courtesy Ikuntji Artists.

Inset: Douglas Multa gives his acceptance speech. Image courtesy Ikuntji Artists.

Key Dates

10-12 August	Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
3-4 September	Desart Art Worker Curatorial Program
6 September	Desert Mob Exhibition Opening
7 September	Desert Mob Symposium
8 September	Desert Mob Marketplace
October 31 – November 2	Art Centre Managers PD Training
November Date TBC	Desart AGM

Email blasts for Desart members

Keep up to date with industry grant and art prizes & competition opportunities and news. Email Jasper at programofficer@desart.com.au if you're missing out on our grant and competition email blasts.

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