

Art, words and photos from  
Central Australian Aboriginal art centres

Quarterly edition, Summer 2020

# THE DESART RADAR



**Culture First.**

Supporting Aboriginal Art Centres  
of Central Australia



Image: Hubert Parerouttja standing in front of his winning work, *Tjoritja (West MacDonnell Ranges, NT)*. Image courtesy of the artist and Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands Art Centre



Image: Benita Clements, *West MacDonnell's*. Image courtesy of the artist and Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands Art Centre.

## Hubert Parerouttja wins the Wynne!

Congratulations to Hubert Parerouttja for winning the Wynne Prize with his painting '*Tjoritja (West MacDonnell Ranges, NT)*'.

*'My family believe giant caterpillars called the Yeperenye became Tjoritja (West MacDonnell Ranges) in the distant past. The giant caterpillars entered through gaps in the ranges. In this painting the trees are a symbol for caterpillars coming through to the Country, and they travelled from Mount Zeil past Mparntwe to Emily Gap.'* – **Hubert Parerouttja**

More exciting news to come out of Iltja Ntjarra (Many Hands) Art Centre is a future acquisition by QAGOMA, of Benita Clements' powerful works around her community's contemporary social concerns. The acquisition of these works and others from the current and recent generations of artists, courtesy of benefactor Glenn Manser, makes the Gallery's historical to-contemporary Hermannsburg School collection the strongest nationally.

# Kungkarangkalpa

*Kungkarangkalpa* (Seven Sisters) by Tjanpi Desert Weavers is a collaborative large-scale installation commissioned by the National Gallery of Australia for the **Know My Name: Australian Women Artists 1900 to Now** exhibition.

*Kungkarangkalpa* is an epic ancestral story that follows the journey of seven sisters as they are pursued across Country by Wati Nyiru/Yurla, who is chasing the eldest sister. The sisters constantly try to evade their pursuer leaving traces of their journey in the landscape. In an attempt to escape, they eventually launch themselves into the sky, transforming into the stars that form the Pleiades. Wati Nyiru follows and becomes the Orion constellation. The retelling and depiction of this story relays the impact of transgressive behaviour and water resources necessary for survival in the desert.

For the Tjanpi Desert Weavers, coming together to create collaborative works is an important way to share intimate knowledge of Country and the ancestral stories associated with it with younger generations.

**Know My Name** is an initiative of the NGA aimed at increasing the representation of artists who identify as women in its artistic program and enhancing understanding of the contributions they have made and continue to make to Australia's cultural life.



Image: *Kungkarangkalpa* (Seven Sisters) by Dianne Ungukalpi Golding, Delilah Shepherd, Winifred Puntjina Reid, Dorcas Tinnimai Bennett, Martha Yunurupa Ward, Nancy Nyanyana Jackson, Nangawara Ward, Polly Pawuya Jackson, Cynthia Nyungalya Burke, Erica Ikungka Shorty, Judith Yinyika Chambers, Rosalie Richards, Dallas Smythe, Roma Yanyakarri Butler. 2020. Image by Thisbe Purich © Tjanpi Desert Weavers, NPY Women's Council.

Image: Sheraldeen Marshall wearing Eunice Napanangka Jack Kuruyultu design from Ikuntji X Publisher Collaboration. Photo by Christian Koch.



## Ikuntji Artists X Fashion Collaborations

Ikuntji Artists are excited to announce and launch their fashion collaborations, partnering with Magpie Goose, Publisher Textiles, Flying Fox Fabrics and Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA).

These limited edition collections feature designs from Eunice Napanangka Jack, Ms Kumuntjai Nampitjinpa Dixon, Keturah Zimran, Mavis Marks, Mitjili Napurrula, Lisa Multa and Leonie Kamutu, producing a mix of clothing, face masks, bags and other accessories.

These iconic designs and punchy colours tell the stories of Haasts Bluff's people, place and culture.



Magpie Goose X Ikuntji  
Clothing  
@magpiegoose.nt

Publisher Textiles X Ikuntji  
Clothing  
@pubtextiles

Flying Fox Fabrics X Ikuntji  
Accessories  
@flyingfoxfabrics

MCA X Ikuntji  
Face masks  
@mca\_australia



Image: Warlayirti Artists Silk Workshop 2020, L-R: Helen Nagomara, Eva Nagomara, Roberta Leary, Jane Gimme, Marie Mudgegell, Gracie Mosquito, Elizabeth Gordon. Photo by Warlayirti Artists.

## Warlayirti Artists X Fremantle Art Centre

Over the course of a week, Warlayirti Artists centered its art practice and production around silk scarves. Roberta Leary from Fremantle Art Centre worked with the artists to create beautiful works in a new medium. The space was reinvigorated with a new energy with some young people also coming into the art centre to learn the new skill and sit beside their elders and families.

The silks were showcased at the Tarnanthi Art Fair this month. Workshops supported by Connect Groups WA and FAC.



Image: Vincent Namatjira with his painting 'Stand Strong For Who You Are', Courtesy of the artist and Iwantja Arts. Photo by Iwantja Arts.

## Congratulations Vincent!

Congratulations to Vincent Namatjira of Iwantja Arts who won this year's Archibald prize, becoming the first Indigenous artist to win in its 99-year history! The portrait is of himself with football legend Adam Goodes, titled *Stand Strong For Who You Are*.

*'When I was younger and growing up in the foster system in Perth, Indigenous footballers were like heroes to me. Goodes is much more than a great footballer though, he took a strong stand against racism and said, "enough is enough". I stand strong with you too, brother.'* – **Vincent Namatjira**

Vincent Namatjira is represented by *This is No Fantasy*.

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## Utopia Art Centre

After three years in the making, Desart is proud to announce that Utopia Art Centre is here!

The project is a community-led initiative and is founded on a strong, culturally appropriate partnership between Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation, Desart and the artists of Utopia.

The Utopia region, north east of Alice Springs, was one of the first remote regions to be artistically and commercially successful and has a compelling and distinctive art history.

Utopia artists have produced some of remote Australia's most characteristic art, painted by leading artists such as Emily Kame Kngwarreye.

In October, Sophia Lunn was appointed as manager and she comes with a wealth of industry experience and is already fielding interest from major international institutions, such is the anticipation for and interest in this region. We wish the artists of Utopia and Sophia the best success and are excited to see new work coming out of the art centre.

Image: Nola Campbell, All of Patjarr, acrylic on canvas, 50cm x 76cm. Photo courtesy of the artist and Warakurna Artists.



## Desart Online

Challenges and disruptions aside, this year has paved the way for new advances in the online space including digital agility and audience development for art centres, and particularly for Desert Mob.

With a digital delivery, Desert Mob 2020 was again a testament to the creative momentum of desert artists. This year's exciting online program was accessed by art lovers nationally and internationally with the opportunity to learn, listen and experience the celebration of Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft.

This year the exhibition (physical and online) presented 169 artworks by 177 artists across 29 art centres. The show was full of expressive, energetic and bold works, the result of this testing year.

Usually presented over one day to a packed house, the Symposium program was a series of short films delivered over a week, telling stories from the regions. The MarketPlace presented the works of 32 art centres over 7 days, compared to the normal four-hour frenzy that is the real life event.

On the back of this, Desart also presented an online Christmas MarketPlace to capture and develop audience participation.

Your support of these markets has directly assisted Central Australian Aboriginal artists and communities. So thank you! We look forward to your ongoing virtual support!

## Key dates

**23 December – 1 February** Desart office closed.

**30 Mar - 1 April** Desart Art Centre Conference – DoubleTree by Hilton, Alice Springs.

## Email blasts for Desart 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.

Desart wishes our membership and friends a safe and happy holiday. See you in the New Year!

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