



Nyarapayi Giles

Born 1940, Gibson Desert, Western Australia. Passed away in in 2019.

BIOGRAPHY

Nyarapayi Giles, a Ngaanyatjarra woman, began painting on canvas while settled in Patjarr Community, when the Modern Desert Art Movement sprung from Papunya Tula and gained astounding momentum. She has been described as a “first contact” woman as her youth was lived nomadically in the Gibson Desert. Giles painted between various communities in Ngaanyatjarra Lands until 2006 when Tjarlirli Art was established in Tjukurla Community, which lies between Kintore and Kaltukatjara (Docker River) resting on the banks of saltwater Lake Hopkins. Karrku, where Giles was born, is an important cultural site associated with the Karlaya Tjukurpa (Emu Dreaming), in which emus are rumoured to have gone digging in the local ochre deposit for the fine-grained powder that, when combined with water, transforms into a red, sanguineous substance. Red ochre, such as that found at Karrku, holds ceremonial weight, used in initiative body painting and later by artists on canvas.

The deep knowledge Giles possessed of these ancestral histories is evidenced by her work with large concentric circles in fluorescent hues, interlaced by poised dot work, picturing the location of the ochre pits and sand dunes in Ngaanyatjarra Country. Her canvases are striking due to her bold use of warring pigments: tawny reds, brilliant Azul and ultramarine, deep grey, feathery cream, brick pink and Atlantic green which, when juxtaposed, unite in kaleidoscopic and sensational masterpieces.

Giles is widely acknowledged as one of the leading artists who brought international attention to painting from Ngaanyatjarra Country. One of her first canvases for Tjarlirli Art was a finalist in the 2008 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award (NATSIAA). Giles was also awarded First Prize in the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Art Award that same year.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2008 Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, Australia
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GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Tjarlirli Rocks*, JGM Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2020 *Tjukurla Masters*, Yaama Ganu, Australia
- 2020 *Rawa Titungarala*, Artsource Western Australia, Australia
- 2020 *I Know My Country*, Artitja Fine Art Gallery, Western Australia, Australia
- 2020 *MERRY-GO-ROUND*, JGM Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2019 *The Womens Show*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2019 *Yamma Ganu*, Moree, New South Wales, Australia
- 2018 *Summer Salon*, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2018 *Desert Mob 2018*, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
- 2018 *Salon Des Refuses*, CDU, Darwin, Australia
- 2018 *Geelong Contemporary Art Prize*, Finalist, Geelong, Australia
- 2018 *Albany Art Prize*, Finalist, Albany, Australia
- 2018 *The Womens Show*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2017 *Ng Salon - Tarnanthi Festival*, Raft Artspace & Hanging Valley, Praxis Gallery, South Australia, Australia
- 2017 *Ngurra: Home on the Ngaanyatjarra Lands*, South Australia Museum, Tarnanthi, Australia
- 2017 *Port Hedland Art Award*, Finalist, Australia
- 2017 *Desert Mob*, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia

2017 *Minyma Mayatja*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
 2017 NATSIAA, Finalist, Museum & Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia
 2017 *Tjukurla Tjukurrpa*, Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney, Australia
 2017 *The Womens Show*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
 2017 *Wala Wingki*, Raft South, Hobart, Australia
 2016 *Who's Afraid of Colour*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
 2016 *Desert Mob*, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
 2016 *Salon Des Refuses*, CDU, Darwin, Australia
 2016 *Port Hedland Award*, Finalist, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, Australia
 2016 *Power, Colour, Story*, Harvey Art Projects, United States
 2016 *Aboriginal and Pacific Art*, Sydney, Australia
 2016 *Touring Exhibition*, Art Kelch, Germany
 2016 *Palya*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
 2015 *Tarnanthi Festival*, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia
 2015 Tunbridge Gallery, Perth, Australia
 2015 *Desert Mob*, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
 2015 *Port Hedland Award*, Finalist, Courthouse Gallery, Port Hedland, Australia
 2015 NATSIAA, Finalist, Museum & Gallery of Northern Territory, Australia
 2015 *Recent Works from Tjarlirli Art*, RAFT Artspace, Australia
 2015 *Western Desert Mob, Paintings from Tjarlirli and Warakurna*, Harvey Arts Projects, United States
 2014 *Warakurna Art and Tjarlirli Art*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
 2014 *Salon Des Refuse*, Outstation Gallery, Australia
 2014 *Desert Mob*, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
 2014 *Our Home In Colour*, Outstation Gallery, Australia
 2014 *Living Spirit*, Marshall Arts, Australia
 2013 *The Wild Ones*, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, Australia
 2013 *Desert Mob*, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
 2013 *Ngaanpurinytjulahu Tirtu Palyapayi (We Always Do It Like This)*, Harvey Art Projects, USA
 2013 *Salon des Refuses*, Outstation Gallery, Australia
 2013 *Tjarlirli Art: In Profile*, Marshall Arts, Australia
 2012 *Way Out West*, Raft Artspace, Australia
 2011 *Watch Me And Learn*, Aboriginal And Pacific Art, Sydney, Australia
 2011 *Desert Mob*, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
 2010 Mora Galleries, Melbourne, Australia
 2010 Merenda Fine Art, Fremantle, Australia
 2009 *Western Desert Mob Print Show*, Nomad, Darwin, Australia
 2009 *Walka Putitja*, Short St Gallery, Broome, Australia
 2009 Chapman Gallery, Canberra, Australia
 2009 *Desert Mob*, Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
 2009 *Seniors And Emerging*, Tunbridge Gallery, Margaret River, Australia
 2009 *Tjukurpa Pulkajarra*, South Australian Museum, Adelaide, Australia
 2008 Randell Lane Fine Art, Perth, Australia
 2007 *National Australian Indigenous Art Prize*, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia
 2007 *Big Country*, Gondwana Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
 2007 William Mora Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
 2007 *Sir Charles Gairdner Art Prize*, Australia
 2005 Meeniyen Gallery, Meeniyen VIC, Australia
 2004 *Fibre Sculpture*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

COLLECTIONS

Rollins Museum of Art
 Araluen Centre Collection
 British museum Collection
 City of Joondalup Collection
 Harriett and Richard England Collection
 Patrick Corrigan Collection
 Sir Charles Gairdner Collection

Swift-Lagerburg Collection
W&V McGeoch
Queensland Art Gallery Collection
Charles Darwin University Collection
National Gallery of Victoria Collection
Acquired by Araluen Cultural Centre, 2012
Acquired by Araluen Cultural Centre, 2014
South Australia Museum
HSH Prince Albert II Monaco Collection

AWARDS

- 2018 Finalist, Geelong Contemporary Art Prize, Geelong, Australia
- 2018 Finalist, Albany Art Prize
- 2017 Finalist, NAATSIA, Museum & Gallery Of The Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2017 Finalist, Port Hedland Art Award
- 2015 Finalist, NAATSIA, Museum & Gallery Of The Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia

JGM GALLERY

24 Howie Street London SW11 4AY

Phone: +44 (0) 207 228 6027 | Email: info@jgmgallery.com | Website: www.jgmgallery.com