

GALLERY ONE



Nancy Kunoth Petyarre

Born - circa 1938
Tribe - Anmatyerre
Area - Utopia, Central Australia

Nancy Kunoth Petyarre was born at Soakage Bore circa 1938. She is the sister of the well known artists Gloria Petyarre, Kathleen Petyarre, Ada Bird, Violet Petyarre and Myrtle Petyarre.

Like many of the female artists from the Utopia area, Nancy worked in batik and gradually evolved her art to canvas in the late 1980's. Nancy is noted for her linear style of painting depicting Mountain Devil Lizard (Arnkerrthe) Dreaming with flowing strokes and bright colours. Often surrounding these broad areas of colour are small dots creating the effect of the lizards skin that is the basis of this Dreaming.

Nancy also uses small dots in her paintings. These dots form an intricate display of patterns that display Nancy's love of her country.

Her dreamings include Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming, Body Painting and Grass Seed, these are stories that come from her family and her country.

Nancy is also well known for her carvings that have featured in numerous exhibitions, and for wood block prints which are in the collections of the National Gallery of Australia and the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Sadly, Nancy passed away in August 2009.

Collections

Holmes a' Court, Perth.

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney.

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.

Museum & Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, Darwin.

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne.

Exhibitions

- 1989 "Utopia Women's Paintings, the First Works on Canvas, A Summer Project", SH Ervin Gallery, Sydney.
- 1989 "Aboriginal Art: The Continuing Tradition", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.
- 1990 "Utopia - A Picture Story", an exhibition of 88 works on silk from the Holmes a' Court Collection by Utopia Artists which toured Eire and Scotland.
- 1992 "Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Exhibition", Araluen Centre, Alice Springs.
- 1993 "Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Exhibition", Araluen Centre, Alice Springs.
- 1994 "Central Australian Aboriginal Art and Craft Exhibition", Araluen Centre, Alice Springs.
- 1994 "Yapakurlangu Wirrkardu", Batchelor College, Tennant Creek.
- 2003 "Tactility: two centuries of Indigenous objects, textiles and fibre", National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.
- 2004 "Reves de Femmes", Galerie DAD, Mantes-la-Jolie, France.
- 2006 "Utopia", Galerie DAD, France.
- 2007 "Women of High Distinction", Galleries Direct, Sydney.
- 2007 "Visions of Utopia", Coe-ee Aboriginal Art, Sydney.
- 2007 "YAPA Dreamings", Galerie YAPA, Paris.
- 2007 "Women's Dreamings", Red - Australian Contemporary Art, London.
- 2008 "Painting Country", United Galleries, Perth.
- 2008 "Impulse to Paint: The Artists of Iylenty, Utopia", Lauraine Diggins Fine Art, Melbourne.
- 2009 "Sisters: The Work Of The Petyarre Sisters", United Galleries, Perth.
- 2010 "Arnkerrthe - A Tribute to Nancy Petyarre", Astras Galleries, Gold Coast.

Select Bibliography

1. Brody, A., 1989, Utopia Women's Paintings: the First Works on Canvas, A Summer Project, 1988-89, exhib. Cat., Heytesbury Holdings, Perth. ©