

Desert Mob 2019 Symposium

6 September
Araluen Arts Centre,
Mparntwe (Alice Springs)



Rene Kulitja (Maruku Arts) opens Desert Mob 2018.
Image: James Henry, Desart.

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Desert Mob Symposium 2019

Friday 6 September, 10am -3:30pm
Araluen Arts Centre, Mparntwe (Alice Springs)

Insightful, inspiring and moving presentations from
Central Australian Aboriginal artists and special guests.

MC

Coby Edgar, Assistant Curator of Aboriginal Art,
Art Gallery of New South Wales

9:30 – 10:00am

Registration in the Araluen foyer and a cuppa tea

Morning Program

10.00am – 12.30pm

Introduction and Welcome from Jane Young, Desart Chairperson
and Philip Watkins, Desart CEO.

Performance by the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir.

1. Barkly Regional Arts
2. Yarrenyty Arlttere Artists & Tangentyere Artists
3. Papunya Tjupi Arts
4. Desart Artworker Program
5. Desart Photography Prize

Lunch 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Afternoon Program

1:30pm – 3:30 pm

6. Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists
7. Balang John Mawurndjal OAM
8. Ittja Ntjarra Many Hands
9. Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre

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(L-R) Dr Samantha Disbray with Tartakula artists Susannah Nelson,
Penelope Kelly and Lindy Brodie. Image: Barkly Regional Arts.

Barkly Regional Arts - Warumungu Language Repatriation Project

Language recordings are a source of inspiration to Barkly artists. At a recent workshop at Barkly Regional Arts in Tennant Creek, artists created works in response to the repatriation of historic Warumungu language recordings. Recorded in 1966, many by relatives of the artists, they tell gruesome and dramatic creation stories, oral histories detailing first-contact with Europeans, life on cattle stations, and a rich documentation of traditional practices.

Artists Susannah Nelson and Lindy Brodie will share the stage with linguists Samantha Disbray, Sandra Morrison and Rosemary Plummer from the Australian National University. Together, they will discuss the ongoing repatriation of the recordings, and the creation of an accompanying book and multimedia exhibition, showcasing artwork, transcriptions, translations and sound recordings — works which testify to the rich and enduring culture, history, language and creativity of Warumungu people.

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Desart Photography Prize 2019

The Desart Photography Prize, now in its seventh year, provides an important platform where the Aboriginal photographer is behind the lens rather than being the observed. The Prize emerged out of the broader Aboriginal Art Worker program that delivers opportunity for the development of technical skills and experimentation with new media. Participating photographers provide us with an intimate insight into their community lives captured with a sense of comfort and familiarity that may only be conveyed by one who belongs. The 2019 Prize will be judged by esteemed visual artist, curator, writer and academic Brenda L. Croft.



Desart Photography Prize Trophy.
Image: Penny Watson, Desart.

LUNCH
12:30 – 1:30pm

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Desart Art Worker Program: Meeting us Half-Way

Our approach is always that Aboriginal art workers should want to participate in our program activities as much as (or more than) we want it for them. What happens when Aboriginal art workers self-identify as being ready, when there are high expectations, and they are challenged with exciting professional opportunities?

(L-R) Art workers Maurice Petrick and Cornelius Ebatarinja of Yarrenyty Arlttere assisting with the installation of Momentum at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory in May 2019. Image: Penny Watson, Desart.



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(L-R) Denzel Nelson, Cayman Corby, Zachius Turner, Emmanuel Nelson, Tobias Fly, Leyman Corby, Hamish Andy, Aaron Kingsley, Kamahl Poulson, Carlos Jordan and Benedict Stevens at the Papunya Tjupi Men's Skill Development camp, 2018. Image: Papunya Tjupi Arts.

Papunya Tjupi Arts — nganampa arts, tjungurrinytjaku kutju (our art, coming together as one)

Aaron Kingsley, Selwyn Nelson, Cayman Corby and Dennis Nelson will discuss the men's art and cultural revival at Papunya, a movement which has seen recent bush trips for intergenerational learning and the creation of new works on Country, and the recent opening of the Papunya Men's Painting Room - the first dedicated space for male Papunya artists since the birth of the Western Desert painting movement in the 1970s.

In the old time, our old people stayed out on their country, camping by the waterholes, their sacred dreaming places. They looked after story by drawing in the sand, singing and dancing. That's where canvas paintings came from, those stories drawn in the sand. The old people asked us to look after these places, these stories.

Aaron Kingsley, Elwin Ward, Carbiene McDonald & Bob Dixon

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Yarrenyty Arlttere & Tangentyere Artists: Arrwekwetye Mob – Women Mob

In August 2019, Yarrenyty Arlttere Artists and Tangentyere Artists presented their first collection at the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair's fashion show, From Country to Couture. *Arrwekwetye Mob: Women Mob* features looks from women living in Alice Springs Town Camps. Six are from Yarrenyty Arlttere Artists - Trudy Inkamala, Rhonda Sharpe and Marlene Rubuntja; three are collaboratives from Ewyenper Atwatye Artists - Daphne Mulkabana, Carol Young and Loretta Neil; two are from Tangentyere Artists - Sally Mulda and Grace Robinya. For many of the artists, this was their first foray into building a collection.



Trudy Inkamala of Yarrenyty Arlttere models items from the collection.
Image: Yarrenyty Arlttere.

Marlene Rubuntja and Dulcie Sharpe will join Yarrenyty Arlttere art workers Maurice Petrick and Cornelius Ebatarinja to discuss the stories behind the looks, accompanied by a showing of the collection by local models.

Associated Art Centre Events

Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists

Bindi Magic
Opening 11am,
Sunday 8 September
47 Elder St, Alice Springs

Central Craft

Ikuntji Textiles
Opening 3:30pm, Friday 6 September
Araluen Cultural Precinct
Corner Larapinta Drive and Memorial Drive, Alice Springs

Desart Artspace

Desart Photography Prize 2019
Opening Midday,
Thursday 5 September
11/54 Todd Mall, Reg Harris Lane,
Alice Springs

Papunya Tula

Pintupi Show 2019
Opening 6pm, Friday 6 September
63 Todd Street, Alice Springs

RAFT Artspace

Mick Rictor (Spinifex Arts Project)
Opening 4pm, Saturday 7 September
8 Hele Crescent, Alice Springs

Talapi Gallery

Desert Colour
Opening Friday 30 August
45 Todd St, Alice Springs

Tangentyere Artists

Vincent Lingiari Art Award 2019: Our Country - True Story
Opening 6pm, Wednesday 4 September
16 Fogarty Street, Alice Springs

While you are in Alice Springs visit our Aboriginal Art Centres

Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists

Open 9am-4pm, Monday to Friday,
47 Elder Street,
Alice Springs www.bindiart.com.au

Ittja Ntjarra Many Hands Artists

Open 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday,
29 Wilkinson Street, Alice Springs.
www.manyhandsart.com.au

Papunya Tula Artists

Open 10am-5pm, Monday to Friday,
63 Todd Mall, Alice Springs.
www.papunyatula.com.au

Tangentyere Artists Gallery

Open 10am – 4pm Monday to Friday,
10am – 2pm Saturday
(extended opening hours 11am– 3pm
Saturday 7 September)
16 Fogarty Street, Alice Springs.
www.tangentyereartists.org.au

Tjanpi Desert Weavers

Open 10am-4pm Monday to Thursday
(extended opening hours 9-5pm Friday
6 September)
3 Wilkinson Street, Alice Springs.
www.tjanpi.com.au

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AFTERNOON PROGRAM
1.30 – 3.30pm

Conway Ginger, *Tjilpi (Old Man)*, 2017. Image courtesy of the artist and Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists.

Conway Ginger and The Fly

Screening for the first time, the drawings of Bindi Mwerre Anthurre artist Conway Ginger come to life through the animation of local high school student Rory Rockchild. Conway's quirky, humorous drawings explore the relationships and interactions of the Northern Territory life, with this production capturing a day in the life of a character we are well acquainted with here in the Central Desert - the fly. The animation will be screened alongside a making-of by David Nixon, revealing the techniques behind the animation, and delving deeper into the art and life of Conway Ginger and fellow Bindi Mwerre Anthurre artists.

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Balang John Mawurndjul with granddaughter Belinj Sally-Ann Wurrkidj. Image: Jean-Pierre Chabrol, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia.



Balang John Mawurndjul OAM

Keynote reflecting on more than 45 years of contemporary arts practice with Kuninjku interpreter Murray Garde and grand-daughter Sally-Ann Wurrkidj.

Balang John Mawurndjul is a leading contemporary Australian artist based at Milmingkan, Arnhem Land. Mawurndjul's art practice commenced at the precipice of the era of land rights and self-determination in the early 1970s, with his work rooted in the cosmology of the Kuninjku belief system. Balang works with materials sourced from his Kurulk clan estate and encoded with marks and totems attained through ceremonial and religious knowledge acquired over decades. He has travelled extensively, including to undertake a public art commission at the musée du quai Branly in 2006, and to open his retrospective at the Museum Tinguely in Basel in 2005. Mawurndjul was awarded an OAM in 2006 and a Red Ochre Award in 2018.

Marwurndjal's acclaimed exhibition 'I am the old and the new' is touring nationally and regionally in 2019-2020, visit www.johnmawurndjul.com.au for more information.

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Gloria Pannka working on Copyright Victory 2019. Image: Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands



Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands – Return of the Namatjira Copyright

The artists of Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands discuss the creation of a special painting celebrating the return of the Namatjira copyright, recently gifted to the Araluen Arts Centre. The artists will also present their innovative use of lumen prints to tell the Hermannsburg watercolour movement story from a new perspective, showcased at The National 2019, Art Gallery of New South Wales.

Us elders were talking and thought it would be a good idea to paint something together. You know, something for the next generations to see. So, we were talking with the Namatjira Legacy Trust about this idea and they suggested we paint something to celebrate the historic return of the Namatjira copyright to our family. That is something really important to us, and also, we wanted to remember our family, the late Kumantjai L and Kumantjai K Namatjira who both played an important part in the campaign's success.

Gloria Pannka

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(L-R) Joseph Williams and Jimmy Frank Junior of Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre. Image: Erica Izett, Nyinkka Nyunyu Art and Culture Centre.

Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre - Supporting Warumungu Culture *wanjjal payinti* (old and new)

Two prominent cultural advisors and artists discuss the role of Nyinkka Nyunyu Art & Culture Centre in supporting Warumungu culture and local employment. Jimmy Frank Junior will outline the centre's role in maintaining cultural practices into the future and its priority of educating visitors in the history of the region from an Aboriginal perspective. He will share the artistic, economic, training, education and cultural benefits of the centre in empowering the local community and creating employment opportunities for the next generation. Joseph Williams will discuss the men's art program, from its origin as an art therapy/outreach program to recent successful exhibitions and critical acclaim.

Art centres are important community places. They are innovative and vibrant creative spaces where culture is kept strong, passed on between old and young, and places where Aboriginal people can share their arts and culture with the world. Desart member art centres are Aboriginal-owned and controlled. They are professionally managed to ensure ethical support for the production, marketing and distribution of authentic Aboriginal art. When an artwork is sold from an art centre, most of the funds go to the artist and a small portion is invested back into the art centre for operational costs and community programs. Art centres are dependent on the income they earn because government funding only pays for some of their operational costs. Some art centres are mobile such as Tjanpi Desert Weavers and Maruku Arts but they are all Aboriginal owned. Art centres are a vital part of community life in remote Central Australia. As well as providing much-needed income and employment opportunities they support the maintenance of culture in communities by providing a focus for family connection, social and cultural activities and the means to celebrate Aboriginal identity. Art centres are the only sustainable and ethical model with serious government reporting requirements and financial transparencies. Purchasing and sourcing art from a Desart member art centre provides a guarantee that your artwork is authentic and ethical. Buying artwork from Aboriginal-owned art centres means you are supporting families, jobs, community and the next generation of Aboriginal artists.



Culture First.
Supporting Aboriginal Art Centres
of Central Australia

Desart is the Association of Central Australian Aboriginal Arts and Crafts Centres.

Established in 1992, incorporated in 1993, we now count as our members over 30 independently governed Aboriginal Art and Craft Centres, representing 8000 artists. We are governed by a 10-member Aboriginal executive committee elected from the membership regions and currently employ 7 staff, servicing a membership area of 1.221 million square kilometres. We are committed to supporting Aboriginal art centres, which provide autonomy, sustained growth and stability for Central Australian Aboriginal Communities.

- **Culture First:** We see culture as the priority and foundation for all our work.
- **Diversity:** We respect the cultural diversity inherent to Central Australian Aboriginal peoples and their communities.
- **Autonomy:** We support the independence and autonomy of our art centre members.
- **Ethical:** We work in a manner that is ethical and transparent.
- **Consultation:** We ensure our work is based on consultation with Aboriginal artists and art centre staff. Desart is the conduit through which art centre business operations (financial, human, physical infrastructure) are supported and strengthened. It is our aspiration to achieve a balance between Aboriginal cultural expressions (posited within a broader western arts market) and western systems of administration and governance

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Richard Mandjalu, *Black Magic - Spiritual Man*, Winner, 2018 Desert Photography Prize. Image courtesy of the artist and Martumili Artists.

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Desert Mob Official opening

Thursday 5 September
Araluen Arts Centre
5.30pm–8pm

Join artists from desert art centres across the NT, SA and WA as they present hundreds of new works showcasing emerging practice and innovation in Aboriginal art now!

Desert Mob MarketPlace

Saturday 7 September
Araluen Arts Centre grounds
10am–2pm.

Over 30 Desart-member art centres selling quality affordable art. Meet artists and art workers as you buy direct with 100% of returns going to the makers and their art centres

www.desart.com.au
www.desertmob.nt.gov.au

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