



**Nganampa Ngura**

**Inmatjara:**


**Our Country, Our Song**

30 June - 13 October 2024









*“For First Nations people  
artmaking is often driven,  
or underpinned by a strong  
connection to culture and  
Country so it results in a  
practice that is culturally-  
affirming, as well as income  
generating. Which is a powerful  
combination. ”*

*Alfred Lowe, Artist and  
Ceramicist APY Adelaide Studio*





# Welcome

Each year Wagga Wagga Art Gallery presents the creative works of artists who truly reflect the diversity of Australian lives, practices and beliefs. *Nganampa Ngura Inmatjara - Our Country, Our Song* is one such exhibition. This outstanding exhibition of paintings offers audiences an insight into the expansive art practice of Anangu peoples.

The exhibition is presented in conjunction with APY Art Collective, Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne. APY refers to the traditional lands of the Anangu, Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) people in the far north of South Australia, where Anangu people hold rights to over 103,000 square kilometres of arid land through the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act (1981).


The paintings all depict Anangu lore and law through specific ancestral stories, known as *Tjukurrpa*. This includes creation stories which detail how the world came into being, places of significance, totems and relationships. In Anangu culture everything and everyone, past and present is deeply connected. These connections across time and country are known as 'songlines', where belief is situated in place and narrated through story.





Winter Exhibit  
Smoking Ceremony led by Lu  
Photo Juanita N





Those with cultural seniority will lead the painting process through telling and 'singing' *Tjukurrpa* stories over the painting. Through these acts, the paintings are imbued with strength and culture is renewed in the telling.

The distinctive iconography (dots, connecting lines, concentric circles) of central and western desert paintings has its genesis in finger sand painting (drawing) and ceremonial body art and adornment. Since the emergence of the central and western desert art movement in the mid 1970s, there has been a rapid evolution in use of materials, scale of works and explosive colour and form. Today the art of APY artists is recognised internationally, with their work held in all major public and private art collections.

All artworks in this exhibition are for sale. Purchase supports the economic independence of artists and communities.

Dr Lee-Anne Hall  
Director,  
Wagga Wagga Art Gallery  
July 2024



## About APYACC

*"Our vision is to support every person of working age to have culturally affirming employment and an independent income so that they can succeed in our world and yours."*

The Art Centre Collective (APYACC) are a group of Indigenous-owned and governed art centres that work together on innovative artistic projects, and strong business initiatives. Led by the vision of Anangu Elders and artists the APYACC includes an administrative homebase and studio in Thebarton, SA and galleries in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.

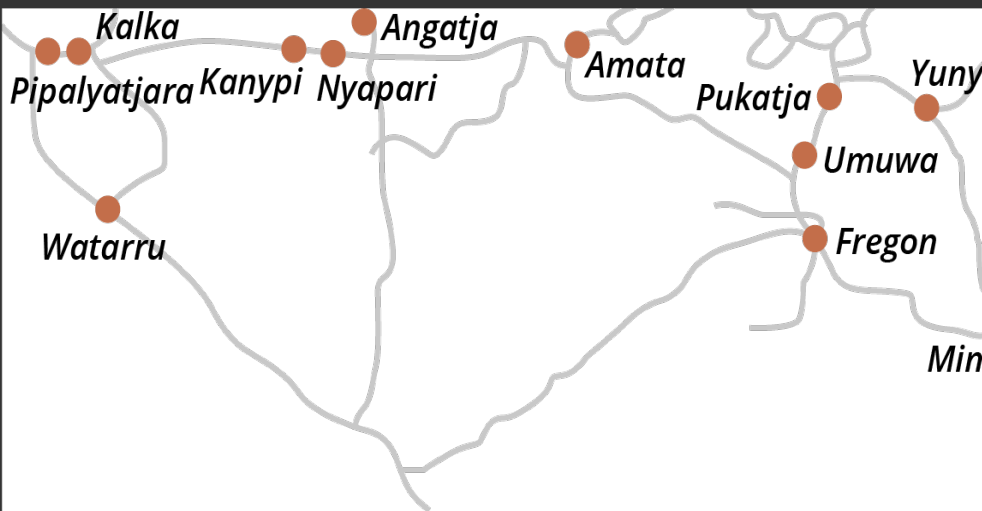




Photo: Marion Baker from Umoona  
Community Arts Centre.  
Image courtesy APYACC



Western Australia



**Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara La**  
South Australia





The APY Lands are home to seven art centres: Iwantja Arts, Mimili Maku Arts, Kaltjiti Arts, Tjala Arts, Tjungu Palya, which along with art centres Adelaide, Umoona Community Art Centre and Port Augusta, Maruku Arts and artists from Ernabella and Pipalyatjara make up the APYACC.

Art centres create employment opportunities for people of all ages and are also places where culture is celebrated and instructed on a daily basis through art and cultural practice.

The exhibition and sale of APY artworks promotes, funds and sustains culture.



Nganampa Ngura Inmatjara  
Our Country, Our Song

Nganampa Ngura Inmatjara  
Our Country, Our Song  
Nganampa Pitjara  
1992-2000









# Opening Address

## Alfred Lowe & Sandra Pumani

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, 6 July 2024

Hello, thank you all for coming today.

I want to start by acknowledging the Wiradjuri people who are the owners of this land and we wanted to pay respects to them and to Aunty Cheryl Penrith for welcoming us to your beautiful country.

My name is Alfred Lowe, and this is Sandra Pumani.

Both Sandra and I live and practice art in Adelaide. We are part of the Adelaide Art Centre run by the APY Art Centre Collective.

Many of the paintings on the walls were made in the same studio that we work in. Sandra and I work alongside artists like Nyunmiti Burton, Leah Brady and Rhoda Tjitayi, who are showing tonight. And It's the same studio where our friends Zaachariaha Fielding and Sally Scales work.







We have a great big studio in Adelaide, with many artists working there. Like Sandra, most of the artists paint and a small group of us including Leshaye Swan and Josina Pumani make ceramics.

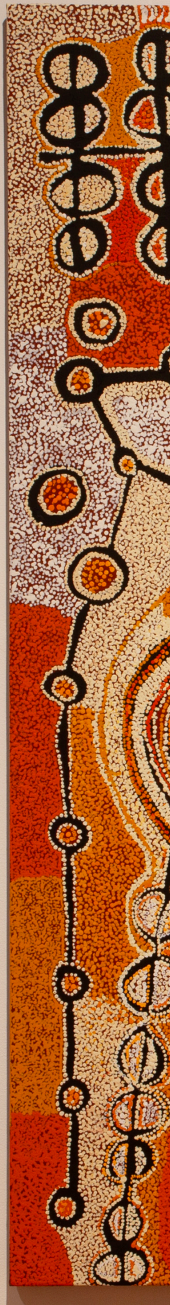
The other works on the walls come from Aboriginal owned Art Centres like ours but located in remote and regional South Australia. Many of the art centres are across the APY Lands like Mimili community (where Sandra is from), Amata & Fregon, but there is also work across other communities including Coober Pedy.

The centres in these communities, and our center in Adelaide are the same in that they are owned and run by us. They are not-for-profit social enterprises, and the artists see as much returned to them as possible.

Whatever is not returned to the artist directly, is returned indirectly as it is invested in their Art Centre program to keep the centers sustainable.

For many people, Art Centres are the only chance they have at earning an independent income. Art Centres are open to everybody, and for First Nations people artmaking is often driven, or underpinned by a strong connection to culture and Country so it results in a practice that is culturally-affirming, as well as income generating. Which is a powerful combination.

Opposite: Angela Witjiti and Evelyn George.  
*Piltati: Wanampi Tjukurpa*. 2023









The Senior artists say our Art Centres are like art schools or universities, as many First Nations people will never get the opportunity to attend these places, but in the Art Centres they can learn.

The old people teach young people the stories and the skills they need to keep culture alive through art and make a living while doing it.

The income generated through art is money for food and life's basics, it improves the quality of life, and has a positive impact on health and wellbeing for individuals, families and communities.

My own journey into artmaking began three years ago when I started working at the Adelaide Art Centre. I never made the conscious decision to become an artist, I happened upon it. Prior to this I was working in a community health organization and after taking extended leave post pandemic, I fell into the Adelaide Art Centre.

I did grow up around a lot of art though. My mother and father were both artists and we were exposed to the world of art from a young age. I grew up in Alice Springs, and I had the opportunity to know and watch a lot of the great artists who pioneered Aboriginal Contemporary art including Clifford Possum. As young kids we used to climb the fence to watch him paint and were just fascinated by it. I still have the same feeling today when I spend time with the senior artists in the studio.

I held my first solo exhibition at the APY Gallery Adelaide in November 2021. The show was a collection of the first pots I made and really my first start as a practicing artist. My experience is like other early career artists in our collective, like Sally, Zaachariaha, and Iluwanti Ken. It's funny when we talk about emerging or early career artists, we often picture young people but many of our artists start their art practice later in life like Iluwanti, who had her first solo show in 2018 at the age of 78! And has now gone on to be celebrated and embraced as one of the country's best painters.

We all got our start and had our first shows with the collective. We had space to experiment with our technique, and grew our practice. These galleries are our ARIs. And through these galleries we are given freedom to explore, and we're here today because of it.

The Elders who started this company and the senior men and women like Sandra who oversee it today, work with one goal: to create a better future for our kids and the generations to come. This starts with education, healthcare, employment, and opportunities.

Life can be tough for Aboriginal people, whether you live in the city or the bush. But our art centres are part of the solution. These organisations are run by us. They are important places where culture is shared and celebrated every day. But they are also a place where we can have real jobs and earn an income and provide for ourselves, our families and our communities.











These paintings have travelled a long way from the lands to be here.

Both Sandra and I are so happy to be here in Wagga today and to see these works here in person.

Thank you again for coming out today and thank you to Lee-Anne and the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery team, thank you for making this exhibition possible and for your ongoing support. It means the world to us.

Alfred Lowe





Tjula Arts  
Amata, APY Lands, South Australia

This artwork is a reproduction of a traditional Aboriginal painting. It is a dot painting, a style of art developed by the Anangu people of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankatjara (APY) Lands in South Australia. The painting is made of bark and is a significant cultural object. It is a reproduction of a painting by Tjula Arts, a group of artists from the APY Lands. The painting is a large, intricate work, featuring a central figure surrounded by concentric circles and wavy lines. The background is filled with intricate patterns, including a large, dark, curved shape on the left and a complex, web-like structure in the center. The overall composition is highly detailed and symbolic, characteristic of traditional Aboriginal art.



## Sandra Pumani

Sandra Pumani is currently a resident of Adelaide, she was born and raised in the community of Mimili in the far north of South Australia. Sandra comes from a respected line of artists, including her mother Ngupulya Pumani and her grandmother Milatjari Pumani. The artworks produced by Sandra and her mother are of songlines - ancestral stories for which her family has a responsibility to hold dear and communicate, teaching the next generation of children to hold culture 'strong'.

As an artist, Sandra has been a finalist in a number of important exhibitions and Art Prizes including as a finalist of the 2023 Wynne Prize, most recently exhibited here in Wagga Wagga.

Sandra Pumani has held respected leadership positions in her community for the past twenty years and is a champion of education for Anangu children. She continues this leadership at the APY Art Centre Collective as both Chair and Director.

## Alfred Lowe

Ceramicist Alfred Lowe is an Arrernte man who grew up in Alice Springs, later furthering his education in Adelaide, SA. Following an initial career in health education, Alfred turned to ceramics. The unique hand built forms he created led to exhibition opportunities and gallery representation. Alfred Lowe now enjoys a professional career as a ceramicist, with a studio practice based in the Adelaide APY studio.

Opposite: Left to Right  
Alfred Lowe, Wiradjuri Elder Aunty Cheryl  
Penrith and Sandra Pumani





Rhoda Tjitayi  
Piltati, 2023  
Rhoda Tjitayi, 2023  
Rhoda Tjitayi, 2023



Rhoda Tjitayi. *Piltati*. 2023

# International Decade of Indigenous Languages: 2022 - 2032

Pitjantjatjara is the first language of many APY artists. The use of traditional languages is vital in maintaining identity through culturally specific concepts and beliefs.

Some of the words below describe what you will see in the paintings.

Ini	Name
Anangu	Person
Nayulu	I
Nyuntu	You
Nanana	We
Ngura	Home, camp, place
Palya	Okay, good, welcome
Waru	Fire
Kapi	Water
Puli	Stone
Punu	Wood Tree
Tjanpi	Spinifex grass
Minyma	Women
Wati	Man
TjiTji	Children
Tjala	Honey Ant
Tjukurrpa	Ancestral law and lore
Inma	Song, ceremony
Ninti	Knowledgeable
Mara	Hand
Kuru	Eye
Pina	Ear
Kilipi	Star
Tjintu	Sun



Betty Mula  
Punu Tjuta (Many Trees), 2023  
Mixed Media on Paper  
Art Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney



Betty Mula. *Punu Tjuta (Many Trees)*. 2023







# Artworks

All artworks in this exhibition are for sale. The exhibition and sale of APY artworks promotes, funds and sustains culture.

**1. *Piltati - Rhoda Tjitayi (Adelaide Studio) 2023***

120 x 197 cm. \$4,500

**2. *Piltati -Rhoda Tjitayi (Adelaide Studio) 2023***

150 x 200 cm. \$5,650

**3. *Ngankari - Traditional Healers - Adelaide Studio Collaboration 2023***

300 x 200 cm \$18,000

**4. *Seven Sisters- Nyunmiti Burton***

200 x 300 cm. \$24,500

**5. *Tjungu - Walytjaku inma - Pauline Wangin and Betty Mula (Mimili Maku Arts) 2023***

198 x 183 cm. \$10,600

**6. *Punu tjuta - Betty Mula (Mimili Maku Arts) 2023***

152 x 122 cm. \$4,100

**7. *Punu Tjuta (many trees) - Betty Mula (Mimili Maku Arts) 2023***

122 x 182 cm. \$5,100

**8. *Piltati: Wanampitj Tjurkurpa - George Witjiti (Kaltjiti / Fregon) 2022***

152 x 122 cm. \$7,400

**9. *Ngayuky Ngura - My Country - Jeannie Minunga (Umoor Arts) 2023***

195 x 140 cm. \$4,200

**10. *Kalipinyapa - Priscilla Phillipus (Kaltjiti Arts) 2024***

150 x 150 cm. \$4,100

11. *Piltati: Wanampi Tjukurpa - Angela Witjiti and Evelyn George 2023*  
197 x 197 cm. \$7,400
12. *Tjukula Itilkira Itilkira - Marion Baker 2023*  
198 x 199 cm. \$4,900
13. *Piltati - Leah Brady (APY Studio) 2023*  
200 x 240 cm. \$13,500
14. *Ngayuku Ngura - My Country -Kay Finn (Umoona Arts) 2023*  
185 x 188 cm. \$5,300
15. *Kapi Tjukula (Rain) - Joanne O'Toole (Umoona Arts) 2023*  
118 x 181 cm. \$2,850
16. *Kulata Tjuta - Frank Young (APY Studio) 2023*  
**198 x 153** cm. \$3,900
17. *Kulata Tjuta - Frank Young (APY Studio) 2024*  
152 x 197 cm. \$3,900
18. *Ngura Ngayuku -My Home - Sandra Pumani (APY Studio) 2023*  
300 x 200 cm. \$9,100
19. *Nganampa Ngura -Our Country - Kay Finn, Myra Kumanjara (Umoona Community Art Centre) 2023*  
252 x 181 cm. \$7,500
20. *Piltati - Rhoda Tjitayi (APY Studio)2023*  
200 x 200 cm. \$7,000
21. *Minyma Malilunya - Teresa Baker (APY Studio)2023*  
196 x 181 cm. \$15,000



# ***Nganampa Ngura Inmatjara: Our Country, Our Song***

Featuring 17 artists from the APYACC

Marion Baker  
Teresa Baker  
Leah Brady  
Nyunmiti Burton  
Kay Finn  
Evelyn George  
Myra Kumanjara  
Jeannie Minunga  
Betty Mula  
Joanne O'Toole  
Priscilla Phillipus  
Sandra Pumani  
Rhoda Tjitayi  
Pauline Wangin  
Angela Witjiti  
George Witjiti

# Learning and Engagement Programs

## Opening Weekend

Conversation with the artists  
Winter Exhibition Launch

5 July 2024  
6 July 2024

## Learning

Winter Art Camp  
Family Creation Station  
Art After School  
Educational Tours

16-19 July 2024  
6-21 July 2024  
7 August - 11 Sept 2024  
By arrangement

## Animations

Animations from the Tjanpi Desert Weavers.  
Daily in our Media Space, Main Gallery (Free)

## Saturday Matinees (Free)

Films from Indigenous Australia - 2pm in the Main Gallery:

<i>In My Blood It Runs</i>	3 August 2024
<i>Wash my soul in the River's Flow</i>	10 August 2024
<i>Sweet As</i>	17 August 2024
<i>The Sapphires</i>	24 August 2024
<i>Charlie's Country</i>	31 August 2024

## Wiradjuri & First Nations Creatives

Storytelling workshops led by & for First Nations creatives:

<i>Wandira. What's your Story</i> with Auntie Cheryl Pentrith	27 July 2024
<i>Storytelling with Laungage &amp; Film</i> with Bernard Higgins	3 August 2024
<i>Songwriting for the Soul</i> with Lawrence Barlow	10 August 2024
<i>Ekphrasis at the Gallery</i> with Marie Clear	17 August 2024



# With thanks

## **APYACC**

Annie Mcloughlin, Regional Projects Officer, APY Art Centre Collective

Sandra Pumani, Artist and Chair, APY Art Centre Collective

Alfred Lowe, Artist

## **Exhibitions Team**

Dr Lee-Anne Hall, Art Gallery Director

Drew Halyday, Gallery Curator, Exhibitions & Collections

Michael Scarrone, Assistant Curator, National Art Glass Collection

Dylan Smyth, Exhibitions Officer

Zoe Morris, Assistant Curator, Collections

## **Engagement Team**

Astrid Reed, Gallery Officer, Learning & Engagement

Mary Egan, Gallery Officer Digital & Programs

Aunty Cheryl Penrith OAM, Elder in Residence & First Nations Programing

Georgia Crowden, Gallery Assistant

## **Visitor Services Team**

Karin Zuge Bruton, Gallery Retail Operations

Helen Robb, Glass Gallery Assistant

Joel Markham, Gallery Assistant

Bernie Bodel, Gallery Assistant

Claire Wemyss, Gallery Assistant

And the wider Wagga Wagga Art Gallery Team.



# Nganampa Ngura Inmatjara: Our Country, Our Song

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery  
30 June - 13 October 2024

## Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

Morrow Street  
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WAGGA WAGGA  
ART GALLERY



City of  
Wagga Wagga



Wagga Wagga Art Gallery is  
supported by the NSW  
Government through Create NSW.

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery is a cultural facility of Wagga Wagga City Council.