

MICK NAMARARI TJAPALTJARRI

Represented by Utopia Art Sydney
983 Bourke St, Waterloo NSW 2017 Tel: 61 2 9319 6437
utopiaartsydney.com.au art@utopiaartsydney.com.au

c.1930 - 1998

Born at Marnpi, N.T.
1960 moved to Papunya
1971 began painting in acrylics
1981 moved to Kintore

Mick Namarari Tjapaltjarri was one of the pioneer group of painters at Papunya in the early 1970s. Mick was 'amongst the earliest of the painters to experiment with fields of dotting and later linework devoid of the design motifs which were the defining element of Western Desert Art for its first two decades. He was also among the first to employ bold undotted lines in his work, marking out a direction that would come to dominate many Papunya Tula artists' styles from the late 1990s' (V Johnson, 2008). Mick's career consisted of many group and solo exhibitions, and he has received multiple awards, including the Red Ochre Award in 1994, the Alice Prize in 1994 and the National Aboriginal Art Award in 1991. His work can be found in numerous important collections including the National Gallery of Australia, the National Gallery of Victoria, the Queensland Art Gallery and the Wollongong City Art Gallery. He was the first Papunya Tula artist to be the subject of a major monograph published in 2018.

Solo Exhibitions

- 1998 'Mick Namarari Tjapaltjarri: a survey 1972-1997', Utopia Art Sydney
- 1994 'New Paintings', Utopia Art Sydney
- 1993 'Mick Namarari & Maxie Tjampitjinpa', Utopia Art Sydney
- 1992 Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
- 1991 Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne

Group Exhibitions

- 2021 'Papunya Tula: 50 Years 1971 – 2021' S.H. Ervin Gallery, NSW
- 2019-20 'Am Anfang War Das Land', Sammlung Klein, Germany
- 2012 'Unique Perspectives: Papunya Tula Artists and the Alice Springs Community,' Araluen Arts Centre, NT
- 2011 '40 years of Papunya Tula Artists', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
'Up Close and Personal: works from the collection of Dr Peter Elliott AM', S. H. Ervin Gallery, NSW
- 2010 'Museum III' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
'Desert Country', Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
- 2009 'Abstraction', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2005 'Papunya - circa 1980', Holmes à Court Gallery, WA
'Aboriginal Vision in Contemporary Australian Art', Wright Exhibition Space, Seattle, Washington, USA, collection of Margaret Levi & Robert Kaplan
- 2004 'Binocular: looking closely at Country', Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts – The University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
- 2001 'Dreamtime: the Dark and the Light', Kunst der Gegenwart, Sammlung Essl, Vienna
'Desert Flowering: Aboriginal Art from Private Collections', Manawatu Gallery, NZ
- 2000 'Papunya Tula: Genesis and Genius', Art Gallery of New South Wales
'12th Biennale of Sydney', Art Gallery of New South Wales; Muuseum of Contemporary Art; Artspace, Object Galleries; Customs House; Government House; Sydney Opera House; Sydney Film Festival; City of Sydney.
- 1997 'Pintupi Painters' Papunya Tula Artists' Gallery, Alice Springs.
'The Chartwell Collection: A Selection', Auckland Art Gallery, New Zealand.
'Nineteeninetyseven', Utopia Art Sydney.
Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne.
'The Desert Mob Art Show', Araluen Art Centre, N.T.
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide.

- 1996 'Voices of the Earth', Jehangir Nicholson Museum National Centre for Performing Arts, Mumbai; The Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Bangalore.
'Spirit and Place', Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney.
Papunya Tula Artists Pty Ltd., Alice Springs, N.T.
'Fifth Australian Contemporary Art Fair', Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne.
'Contemporary Abstract Aboriginal Art', Sherman Galleries, Sydney.
'Contemporary Australian Abstraction', Niagara Galleries, Melbourne.
- 1995 '1995: some classic works and some brand new', Utopia Art Sydney.
'The Pintupi', Utopia Art Sydney.
Papunya Tula Artists Pty Ltd., Alice Springs, N.T.
- 1994 'A Special Day', Utopia Art Sydney.
Fondazione Gorrardo, Lugano, Switzerland.
Palazzo Butera, Palermo, Italy.
Spazio Krizia, Milano, Italy.
Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT.
National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Heritage Art Award & exhibition, Canberra.
Galerie Australis, Adelaide, South Australia.
Dreamtime Gallery, Broadbeach Queensland.
- 1993 'After the Field' Manly Art Sydney.
'After the Field' Utopia Art Sydney.
'Aratjara Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art'
Kunstammlung, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf, Germany.
Hayward Gallery, London, U.K.
Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs.
Museum of Man, San Diego, California, U.S.A.
Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT.
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark.
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, W.A.
- 1992 Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Victoria
Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia
'Crossroads Towards a New Reality'
National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan
Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
'New Work' Utopia Art Sydney.
'Old Boards' Utopia Art Sydney.
- 1991 'The Pintupi' Utopia Art Sydney.
'The Painted Dream' Auckland City Art Gallery, N.Z. and National Art Gallery and Museum, Wellington
'Desert Paintings' S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney
'Long Hot Summer, Utopia Art Sydney
- 1990 'L'Ete Australien A Montpellier' Musee Farbre, Galerie St. Ravy, Montpellier, France
'Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi at Palazzo Bianchi Michiel' Venice, Italy
'The Last Show 1990' Utopia Art Sydney.
- 1989 John Weber Gallery, New York
'Centro Cultural Arte Cotemporaneo' Mexico
'Mythscapes' National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
'Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi' Melbourne
'ARCO' Spain
- 1988 'Dreamings' Asia Society Gallery, New York and tour
'EXPO' Brisbane
'Ageless Art' Queensland Museum, Brisbane
'Papunya Tula', Wagga City Art Gallery
Utopia Art Sydney
- 1987 Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
- 1986 Roar Studios, Melbourne
'Desert Artists' Sydney Opera House Exhibition Hall
- 1985 'The Face of the Centre: Papunya Tula Paintings 1971-1984', National Gallery of Victoria.
'Dot & Circle: A Retrospective Survey of Aboriginal Acrylic Paintings. of Central Australia' Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia.
- 1984 Mori Gallery, Sydney.
- 1983 'Sao Paulo Bienal' Sao Paulo, Brazil.

- 'Papunya, Aboriginal Paintings from the Centre' Touring exhibition.
Mori Gallery, Sydney.
Roar Studios, Melbourne.
- 1982 Brisbane Festival, Brisbane.
Georges Gallery, Melbourne.
- 1981 'Aboriginal Australia' National Gallery of Victoria.
Art Gallery of Western Australia.
Australia Museum, Queensland Art Gallery.
The Anvil Gallery, Albury.
- 1977 The Nigeria Festival.
- 1975 'Peter Styvesant Cultural Foundation' Touring exhibition.
The Auckland Festival.
Argyle Art Centre, Sydney.
- 1974 'Aboriginal Art from Papunya' The Anvil Gallery, Albury.

Collections

Allen, Allen & Hemsley
Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs
Art Gallery of South Australia
Art Gallery of Western Australia
Artbank
Australian Museum, Sydney
Australian National Gallery
Chartwell Collection, New Zealand
Flinders University Art Museum, Adelaide
The Kelton Foundation Collection, Los Angeles
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
National Gallery of Australia
National Gallery of Victoria
National Museum of Australia
Queensland Art Gallery
South Australian Museum
Supreme Court, Darwin
Janet Holmes a'Court Collection
Berndt Museum, University of Western Australia
Wollongong City Art Gallery
Hood Museum, New Hampshire
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle
Kluge Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection, University of Virginia
Wilkerson Collection, New York

Awards

- 1994** Red Ochre Award.
1994 Alice Prize (joint winner).
1991 National Aboriginal Art Award.

Publications

AMADIO, N./KIMBER, R. Wildbird Dreaming, Greenhouse, Melbourne, 1988.
AUCKLAND ART GALLERY, N.Z. 'The Chartwell Collection: A Selection', exhibition catalogue, 1997.
BARDON, G. Papunya Tula Art of the Western Desert, McPhee Gribble, Melbourne, 1991.
BOULTER, M./HODGES, C. Australia's First International Art Movement, 1989.
BRODY, A. The Face of the Centre - Papunya Tula Painting 1971-1984, cat. National Gallery of Victoria, 1985 catalogue, 1990.
BRODY, A. Contemporary Aboriginal Art, Heytesbury Holdings, Perth, 1990.
CARUANA, W. Aboriginal Art, Thames and Hudson Inc., London, 1993.
CROCKER, A. (Ed) Mr Sandman Bring me a Dream, Papunya Tula Artists Pty Ltd, Alice Springs/Aboriginal Artists Agency, Sydney 1981.
CROSSMAN, S/BAROU, J.P. (Ed.) L'Ete Australien A Montpellier, exhibition.
CRUMLIN, R. (Ed) Aboriginal Art and Spirituality, Collins Dove, Melbourne, 1991.

DAWES, G./HODGES, C. The Pintubi, Utopia Art Sydney, cat. Sydney 1991.
ISAACS, J Australian Aboriginal Paintings, Weldon Publications, Sydney, 1989.
JOHNSON, V et al, The Painted Dream, cat. Auckland City Art Gallery, 1991.
JOHNSON, V. Aboriginal Artists of the Western Desrt, A Bibliographical Dictionary, Craftsman House, NSW, 1994.
JOHNSON, V. Dreamings of the Desert, The Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, 1996.
KEAN, J. East to West: Land in Papunya Tula Painting, The Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide, 1990.
MAUGHN J/ZIMMER J. Dot and Circle, R.M.I.T. Melbourne, 1986, Melbourne, 1991.
Nangara, Exhibition catalogue, The Aboriginal Gallery of Dreamings, Melbourne, 1996.
O'FERRALL M.A. Tjukurrpa-Desert Dreamings, Aboriginal Art From Central Australia Cat. Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, 1993.
O'HALLORAN, Alec, The Master from Marnpi', Lifestyle Design, Sydney, 2018
RYAN, J. Aboriginal Art of the Desert, cat. National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 1989.
SUTTON P. (Ed) Dreamings, The Art of Aboriginal Australia, cat. Viking, New York, 1986.
TALMACS, R Mick Namarari, Essay, 1993.
WEST, M (Ed) The Inspired Dream, Life as Art in Aboriginal Australia, cat. Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane 1988.