

Art, words and photos from  
Central Australian Aboriginal Art Centres

Quarterly edition, Winter 2021

# THE DESART RADAR



**Culture First.**

Supporting Aboriginal Art Centres  
of Central Australia



## Papunya Tula Artists 1971 - 2021

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the western desert art movement, spearheaded by artists in the settlement of Papunya in 1971. A year later, the first Aboriginal-owned company dedicated to the production of works for a commercial market was established, Papunya Tula Artists. To celebrate, Papunya Tula Artists will present *Martupura Tjukurrpa: Important Business* at their gallery in Mparntwe/Alice Springs in September this year.

Desart visited Kintore recently to record the enduring stories and works shifting across generations. We interviewed artists and visited significant sites to document and celebrate the individual stories and successes as well as that of the company. This story will be part of the series of films from across the Desart membership to be released in September.

[www.papunyatula.com.au](http://www.papunyatula.com.au)

Image: George Tjungkurrayi in the Papunya Tula Kintore studio. Photo: Desart.

## Ikuntji Artists in Paris

Ikuntji Artists are proud to be part of '*Dessin du territoire – territoire du dessin – Land Drawing – Drawing of the Land*' Exhibition – a French–Australian collaborative project in 2021 between the female artists of Ikuntji and French artist Patrice Balvay based in Le Havre, north of France. Two panoramic works were created in parallel, forming a site-specific installation.

Celebrating the dynamism of Indigenous textile, drawing and painting, the exhibitions aim to provide an overview of practice in traditional communities happening now.

### *Land Drawing – Drawing of the Land*

3 July – 3 September

Le Havre's Hanging Gardens

### *Painting Now*

10 July – 19 September

55 Rue du 329ème RI

[www.ikuntji.com.au](http://www.ikuntji.com.au)



Image: This work by Eileen Napaltjarri Anyama is part of an installation in Le Havre. Photo: Courtesy of the artist and art centre.





Image: Sheree Inkamala with her designs.  
Photo: Desart.

## Yarrenyty Arltere Artists plate up

Yarrenyty Arltere Artists love using second-hand materials. The artists use beautiful old woollen blankets as the base material for all their soft sculptures, scrap fabric and wool to make jewellery and linen off cuts from paintings to make dillybags and aprons.

And now the artists are excited to be exploring a new direction involving upcycling used plates and applying decals, after teaming up with art centre friend, Sally Mumford. Over four days, Sally delivered workshops to teach everyone how to use the decals and how to fire the plates in the kiln.

The use of this technique gives Yarrenyty Arltere a unique voice and place in the increasingly competitive and expanding ceramics market. It is an important skill and remains true to the art centre's aesthetic and commitment to recycled materials and is less time consuming than sculptures. It also means that the drawings which are part of the process in sculpture making can now find a place to be seen and celebrated.

*"We picked the plates we loved. We did drawings and then cut out the designs. Cornelius used a very sharp scalpel to cut out all the detail of our drawings. Then we learnt how to wet the decals and stick them onto our plates, making sure there were no bubbles. It was really fun choosing an old plate and then making a design that could go inside or on top of the design already on the plate."*

*It was good for us all to learn a new way to do something. Cornelius knows how to do the whole process now so when we want to do it again, he can help us.*

*And we have been invited to exhibit a selection of the plates in the Australian Ceramics Triennale in July 2022 at Araluen Arts Centre. We have lots of ideas for the plates and cannot wait to make more.*

*We could not have done this workshop without the support from the Desart Resilience funding. Thank you Desart, you are always helping us, and we are very grateful."*

[www.towncampdesigns.org.au](http://www.towncampdesigns.org.au)

## Vincent Lingiari Art Award 2021 *Ngawa, Ngapa, Kapi, Kwatja, Water*

Desart and event partners, the Central Land Council (CLC) and Tangentyere Artists, are pleased to announce Hetti Perkins as Judge of the 2021 Vincent Lingiari Art Award. Curator, writer and presenter, Hetti is a member of the Arrernte and Kalkadoon Aboriginal communities and is the daughter of the CLC's first chair, Charlie Perkins. It is a welcome return for Hetti having judged the inaugural award in 2016. This year's award has received a record number of entries responding to the theme *Ngawa, Ngapa, Kapi, Kwatja, Water* and understandably so, with water being "the new land rights" as stated by CLC Chairperson, Sammy Wilson. All works will go through an initial selection process and those selected will be exhibited at Tangentyere Artists Gallery with the winner of the \$10,000 prize announced on September 8 along with the winner of the CLC's Delegates' Choice Award. In a first for the award Desart CEO, Philip Watkins, stated that all works submitted will be presented via the online gallery. "This award is about inclusivity" he said.

Together with the Central Land Council, Desart established the Vincent Lingiari Art Award in 2016 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic *Wave Hill Walk Off* and the 40th anniversary of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) 1976*. The award honours the leadership of Vincent Lingiari and all those who have fought for their land rights.



Image: Portrait of Hetti Perkins, 2021, courtesy © National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

**Vincent Lingiari Art Award 2021**

September 8 - October 13

*Ngawa, Ngapa, Kapi, Kwatja, Water*



desart

## Kupurilya Springs Project

Kupurilya Springs is a special site from which a pipeline was built to bring water to Hermannsburg mission. Every year in October, the people of Hermannsburg hold a Thanksgiving Day of celebration to mark the day the water arrived.

The artists of Iltja Ntjarra are working with artist Tom Nicholson on a project about Kupurilya to be presented at Tarnanthi Festival, involving works on paper, film and photography as a way to talk about the site and pass on their knowledge to younger artists and family members.

[www.manyhands.com.au](http://www.manyhands.com.au)



*“They came here to have their connection, songlines, that were sung when they came here and looked after the place in that way. Having connection with the spiritual keepers is how this place was really happy in those days.*

*It used to be good when we were kids. We climb up hills and make a lot of noise. Singing songs from school. Young girls showing off and young boys riding horses. Memories of our tribe*

*being on east side of springs. It’s only a trickle now. Bit emotional when all the past is gone.”*

*– Selma Coulthard, artist.*

Image: Selma Coulthard sketching at Kupurilya Springs. Photo:Desart



# Bindi Enterprises is launching a new Digital Art Program.

Focusing on creative outcomes and community partnerships, Bindi will be offering digital arts training, suitable for all levels.

Classes will introduce members of the community to art-making platforms available at their fingertips, provide opportunities for exhibition and professional development, and help digital artists expand their repertoire of skills and take their creative practice to new heights. All the while acknowledging and embracing difference and the many ways people learn.

The range of digital art courses will be delivered weekly and include photography, filmmaking, animation, painting, drawing and cyber-safety.

Lend your voice and creative vision to the digital art world and expand your practice.

Bindi is a social enterprise and registered NDIS provider that delivers services that aim to enrich the lives of people with disabilities. Bindi Enterprises has operated for over 40 years in the central desert and Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists was the first studio in Australia to occupy the intersection between supported studios and Aboriginal Art Centres.

For more information contact the Bindi Digital Arts Program at [bindidigitalarts@lifestylesolutions.org.au](mailto:bindidigitalarts@lifestylesolutions.org.au)  
[www.bindiart.com.au](http://www.bindiart.com.au)

Image: L to R: Billy Kenda, Anna McCauley, Tara Heenan, Teresa Johnson.  
Photo: Courtesy of the art centre.



## Key dates

<b>6 – 11 August</b>	Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair (online)
<b>Sept 3</b>	Desert Colours, Talapi, Todd Mall
<b>Sept 8 – Oct 13</b>	Vincent Lingjari Art Award, Tangentyere Artists Gallery
<b>Sept 9</b>	Photography Prize, Desart ArtSpace, Todd Mall
<b>Sept 9</b>	Martupura Tjukurrpa: Important Business, Papunya Tula Artists
<b>Sept 10</b>	Desert Mob, Araluen Arts Centre
<b>Sept 11 – Oct 2</b>	Simon Hogan and Lawrence Pennington, RAFT artspace
<b>Sept 12</b>	Bindi Magic – 10th Year Anniversary, Bindi Mwerre Anthurre Artists, Elder St

**\*\*As COVID-19 has an unprecedented impact on events please check the Desart website and social media for up to date information on all exhibitions listed in this edition.**

## Email blasts for Desart members

Keep up to date with industry news, grants, art prizes and competition opportunities. Email [programofficer@desart.com.au](mailto:programofficer@desart.com.au) if you're missing out on our grant and competition email blasts.

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