



Birth Date

8/05/1962

Dennis Nelson Tjakamarra

Biography

Dennis Nelson Tjakamarra was born in Alice Springs in 1962, son of Johnny Warangkula Tjupurrula, one of the founders of the desert painting movement, and his second wife Gladys (Yawitji) Napanangka, who was among the first group of women at Papunya to paint for Papunya Tula Artists. Dennis remembers going "after school or smoko time" to watch the painters at work. He says his father taught him to paint: "Use brush - cut 'im - he learn me. When I'm a little boy he sat me down in the gallery".

Dennis' paintings are strongly reminiscent of his famous father's early works: "I carry on his style. I know." Johnny also taught him his stories and took him to the sites: the Kalipinya *Kapi Tjukurrpa* (Water Dreaming) with "lots of birds playing round after the rain"; the "Death Spirit [that] comes from underground in the middle of the desert" and Tjikari where the "Men Dreaming [are] still there now". Dennis painted for Papunya Tula Artists in the early 1990s, then for Warumpi Arts before its closure in 2004, now painting at Papunya Tjupi Arts.

Dennis' works are sought after and he has exhibited widely across Australia and internationally in Germany and the United States of America.

Group Exhibitions

- 2020** Papunya Tjupi Arts 2020 : Honey Ant Gallery, Sydney
- 2019** Tjupi Puli : Onsite Gallery, Papunya Tjupi Arts, Papunya NT
- 2019** About Country : Talapi, Alice Springs, NT
- 2019** Nganampa arts, tjungurrinytjaku kutju - Our art, coming together as one - Papunya Mens Art and Cultural Revival Movement : Onsite Gallery, Papunya Tjupi Arts, Papunya, NT
- 2018** Tarnanthi : Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide
- 2018** Tjupi Boards: Kulinyi Tjilpi Tjutanya : RAFT Artspace, Alice Springs
- 2018** Darwin Art Fair 2018 : Darwin, AUS
- 2017** Papunya Tjupi Arts : The Incinerator, Willoughby, Sydney
- 2016** The Power of Naivity : Art Kelch, Collectors Lounge, Schorndorf, Germany
- 2016** Dont you tell me... : Art Kelch, Freiburg, Germany
- 2016** Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair : Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin
- 2016** Malpa Wiru: Good Friends : Signal Point, Goolwa, SA
- 2015** Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair : Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin

- 2015** New Narratives: Papunya Tjupi Prints with Cicada Press 2006-2014 : Kluge-Ruhe Museum – UVa Charlottesville, Virginia, USA
- 2014** Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair : Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin
- 2013** Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair : Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin
- 2011** New Prints from Papunya Tjupi Arts : Nomad Arts, Canberra and Darwin
- 2011** Papunya Tjupi Arts : Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide
- 2010** Papunya Power : ArtMob, Hobart
- 2009** Papunya Tjupi Group Show : Gecko Gallery, Broome
- 2009** Building Papunya Tjupi : Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney
- 2009** Kalipinypa : Mossenson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2009** Desert Mob : Araluen Gallery, Alice Springs
- 2008** Were talking about Papunya again : Art Mob, Hobart
- 2007** Papunya Tjupi: A new beginning : Ivan Doughty Gallery, Paddington