

**We are in Wonder LAND:
New Experimental Art from Central Australia
Public Symposium**

**Friday, 15 MAY, 2015, 9:30-4:00pm
EGO2 Theatre AND UNSW Galleries
UNSW Art & Design, Paddington**

We are in Wonder LAND Symposium explores the central themes of the exhibition **We are in Wonder LAND: New Experimental Art from Central Australia** (15 May – 15 August 2015). It presents for the first time to a Sydney audience, the innovation, dynamism and activism of an emergent 'remote' Central and Western desert avant-garde.

Convened by Dr Jennifer Biddle and Dr Lisa Stefanoff (NIEA, UNSW Art & Design) **We are in Wonder LAND Symposium** is a unique one-day platform bringing together desert artists and other leading Indigenous curators, scholars and artists to discuss the vital importance of new trajectories of tradition and experimentation shaping desert futures today.

PROGRAM

EG02: KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

9:00	Audience arrives
9:15	Doors open
9:30	Welcome to Country Vic Simms (La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council)
9:45	Welcome to Wonder LAND Symposium and day's event MC Brenda L. Croft (NIEA/UNSW Art & Design)
9:50	Acknowledgements of Wonder LAND project partnerships and participants Dr. Jennifer Biddle (NIEA/UNSW Art & Design)
10:00	KEYNOTE #1 Nyurpaya Kaika Burton (Tjala Arts and Tjanpi Desert Weavers) with Linda Rive (Interpreter and translator, Ara Irititja Digital Archive, Pitjantjatjara Council Cultural Heritage Unit).
10:45	Q & A Keynote #1 (Brenda L. Croft)
11:00	KEYNOTE #2 Wanta Steve Jampijinpa Patrick (Artistic Director, <i>Milpirri</i>)
11:45	Q & A Keynote #2 (Brenda L. Croft)

- 12:00 *Lunch Break* (un-catered)
Symposium attendees encouraged to look at show during this break
- 1:00 ARTIST PRESENTATION #1
Robert Fielding (Mimili Maku Arts)
- 1:15 Q & A (Brenda L. Croft)
- 1:30 ARTIST PRESENTATION #2
Rhonda Unrupa Dick (Tjala Arts) in conversation with Brenda L. Croft
- 1:45 Q & A with audience
- 2:00 *Coffee/Tea Break* and audience relocation to UNSW Galleries
'We are in Wonder LAND' exhibition

UNSW Galleries: We are in Wonder LAND: ARTIST TALKS

- 2:30 Gloria Pannka and Marisa Maher (Ngurratjuta Iltja Ntjarra – Many
Hands Art Centre)
Q & A (Brenda L. Croft)
- 3:00 Margaret Boko and Sally Mulda (Tangentyere Artists)
Q & A (Brenda L. Croft)
- 3:30 Marlene Rubuntja (Yarrenyty Arlttere Artists)
Q & A (Brenda L. Croft)
- 4:00 Closing Formalities, END

BIOGRAPHIES

Margaret Boko (Tangentyere Artists)

Margaret Boko is a senior painter at Tangentyere Artists in Alice Springs. She started painting when she joined the group in 2007. Margaret's mother was a Pintupi-Warlpiri woman from northwest of Central Mt Wedge. Her father's country is in M'Bunghara [Glen Helen Station]. She is an Arrernte, Pitjantjatjara, Luritja and English speaker. Margaret grew up on Glen Helen Station, the Lutheran mission at Jay Creek and at Papunya, where she went to school. She kept living in that area for a long time with her family before moving to Alice Springs. Now a grandmother, she lives at Little Sisters Town Camp with her extended family.

When she first joined Tangentyere Artists Margaret developed a considered style employing a restrained colour palette to paint about her Tjukurrpa narratives involving women, bush tucker, water, and children. Since 2010 Margaret has begun exploring the use of figurative/textual styles to tell stories about everyday life 'at home' at Little Sisters Town Camp, out bush with family, and beyond. With detailed and intimate themes, and the eye of a social historian, Margaret's paintings are strong and often incorporate both vibrant colour and text to document significant places and events in her life and the life of her extended family and friends. The places she paints, and the tales she weaves, are joy-filled and revealing, as she reaches out to her audience to join her in her love of life, family, country, and storytelling. Margaret's work has been exhibited widely. A new work has just been selected for the 2015 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, opening in Darwin in August.

Brenda L. Croft (NIEA, UNSW Art & Design)

Brenda L. Croft is from the Gurindji/Malngin/Mudpurra peoples of the Northern Territory and Anglo-Australian/German/Irish heritage. Involved in the contemporary arts and cultural sectors for three decades as an artist, arts administrator, curator, teacher, academic researcher and consultant, Brenda has worked at local, regional, national and international levels. Brenda is completing critical, practice-led, performative autoethnographic work through interrelated ARC Discovery Indigenous/PhD research with UNSW Art & Design, NIEA. The title of her project is *Still in my mind: Gurindji location, experience and visuality*. Her favourite role is being aunt to Luca, Sasha and Maddie.

Nyurpaya Kaika Burton (Tjala Arts and Tjanpi Desert Weavers)

Nyurpaya Kaika Burton is a senior Pitjantjatjara artist who lives and works in Amata in South Australia. She is a painter and sculptor for Tjala Arts; a sculptor and fibre-innovator for Tjanpi Desert Weavers, and a Pitjantjatjara writer, featured most recently in *ARTAND* in May 2014. Her large-scale installation works have been exhibited at Tandanya, the South Australian Art Gallery, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, and in 2014, shortlisted for the Telstra NATSIAA award.

Rhonda Unurupa Dick (Tjala Arts)

Rhonda started working with Tjala Arts in 2012 as an arts worker and quickly found a passion and talent for photography. Her work premiered at the inaugural Desert Annual Aboriginal Arts Worker Prize in 2012 and won her both this title as well as the prestigious Dreaming Award for a young and emerging artist at the National Indigenous Art Awards in 2013. Rhonda has exhibited at Alcaston Galleries, Gabriella Prizzi and Aboriginal and Pacific Art, was the official Tjala photographer for the South Australian Museum *Heartland* exhibition in 2013, and was shortlisted for the Telstra NATSIAA in 2014. She toured to Korea as part of Desert's IndigiSEOL program in 2014, and in 2015, was selected as one of six Central and Western Desert artists for the **We are in Wonder LAND** Artist-in-residence at Cicada Press, UNSW Art & Design. She is currently social media manager for Tjala Arts, and is working to train up other young women to work in the art centre.

Robert Fielding (Mimili Maku Arts)

Robert Fielding is an artist living and working in the remote community of Mimili in the North of South Australia. He is a painter, photographer and experimental artist. His diverse background and his experience growing up across two very different cultures – western and traditional Aboriginal law, influence his work. His paintings are a way for him to connect to his heritage and family. Robert has worked as an arts worker at Mimili Maku Arts, for the last 4 years. He has represented the art centre at the West Farmers Indigenous Leaders conference in 2013 and has led the way for the arts worker program at Mimili Maku Arts. He is a keen photographer and uses the skills he has developed as an arts worker in his own practice. With 9 kids, he is never short of a model for his photos!

Marisa Maher (Ngurratjuta Ntjarra Iltja / Many Hands Art Centre)

Marisa Maher is an Arrernte woman born in Alice Springs. She has been the Administrative Art Assistant at Ngurratjuta Ntjarra Iltja / Many Hands Art Centre in Alice Springs since 2013. Prior to that she was a Remote Family Support Worker – Department Family & Children's Service. In 2014 Marisa travelled with Ngurratjtua artists to Geelong and Sydney to support two watercolour landscapes exhibition openings and an artist talk and demonstration at the Art Gallery of NSW. She also travelled to Canberra with the Namatjira Project, accompanying the high profile exhibition, [Namatjira to Now](#), at Parliament House and AIATSIS. She was selected by Desert to attend the regional Arts Australia Summit in Kalgoorlie. Marisa has also recently participated in Desert's Art Workers Art Industry Engagement Program in Adelaide.

Sally Mulda (Tangentyere Artists)

Sally Mulda was born in the community of Titjikala (N.T.) and is a speaker of Arrernte, Pitjantjatjara, Luritja and Yankunytjatjara languages. After losing the use of her left arm in a childhood accident, Sally later faced the challenge of losing her sight, now partially restored. Sally moved to Alice Springs in the 1980's and currently lives at Abbott's Camp in Alice Springs with friends and extended family.

Sally began painting when she joined Tangentyere Artists. She has steadily developed her own fluid figurative style of vibrant layered colours in broad brushstrokes, sometimes with written stories on the surface of the painting. Her works document highly social places criss-crossed by family dynamics and people's interactions with the state post-Northern Territory Emergency Response (aka The Intervention). Sally records events she witnesses and experiences without bias or any kind of judgment of the subjects. Things are as they are. Sally was the winner of the 2011 'Rights on Show' Annual Human Rights Art Award and Exhibition and a finalist in the 2012 National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award.

Gloria Paanka (Ngurratjuta Ntjarra Iltja / Many Hands Art Centre)

Gloria Paanka is a second generation Hermannsburg School watercolour artist, as her father Claude Paankawas one of the original Hermannsburg School watercolour artists. Like his contemporary Albert Namatjira, Claude developed an interest in painting when artist Rex Batarbee visited Hermannsburg in 1934. By 1950 Claude was painting full time and had become a highly sought after artist. Gloria's father taught her to paint with watercolours when she was a young girl, and she continues to paint in the style of watercolour landscapes that typifies the Hermannsburg School tradition. Gloria uses fine detail and subtle tones to capture the West MacDonnell Ranges where she currently lives and paints. Gloria's work has featured in a number of exhibitions throughout her career. In 2008 she received a Highly Commended award for her painting in the NATSIAA awards, which was then acquired by the NT Museum and Art Gallery. Gloria has also had the honour of having her painting 'West MacDonnell Ranges' acquired by the Parliament House Art Collection Canberra. Her paintings are exhibited in the Art Gallery of New South Wales and in many private collections. Gloria was again Highly Commended with at the NATSIAA awards in 2014 for the collaborative *Pmere Nunaka Tjurretja* – Our big country: the West MacDonnell Ranges.

Steven Wanta Jampijinpa Patrick (Artistic Director, Milpirri)

Steven Wanta Jampijinpa Pawu-Kurlpurlurnu Patrick is Warlpiri from Lajamanu in the Tanami Desert. He is an educator and cross-media artist, and bicultural writer and translator, who has worked on programs for the Northern Territory Department of Education, the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency, and the Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation's acclaimed Mt Theo Program. Wanta is Creative Director of *Milpirri*, the Lajamanu Warlpiri biennale festival produced in conjunction with Tracks Dance Company since 2005, which has re-envisioned the teaching of Warlpiri law for today's contemporary intercultural contexts. He joined the ANU School of Music in 2012 to conduct his current ARC Discovery Indigenous project.

Linda Rive (Interpreter and translator, Ara Irititja Digital Archive, Pitjantjatjara Council Cultural Heritage Unit)

Linda Rive has lived in central Australia for thirty-five years, working with the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara people. She is fluent in the Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara language dialects and works as an interpreter, translator, and oral historian. She is passionate about cultural history and the natural environment and desert people.

Marlene Rubuntja (Yarrenyty Artlere)

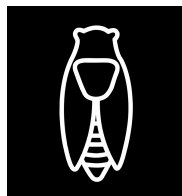
Marlene Rubuntja was born in Alice Springs. Her mother's country is Ntaria (Hermannsburg). Daughter of renowned Central Australian Land Rights activist and artist, the late Wenten Rubuntja, Marlene is an Arrernte woman who proudly calls Larapinta Valley Town Camp her home. She is an artist, a film maker, and a writer for Yarrenyty Artlere Art Centre, and a strong spokeswoman for the art centre and its role in improving community life and ensuring *strong and healthy* pathways for future generations. Marlene's work has been acquired by major public and private collections. She has exhibited her work widely in Australia and overseas.

We are in Wonder LAND is a partnership between Desart Inc. and NIEA/UNSW Art & Design, supported by the Australia Council, the Australian Research Council, and Cicada Press, UNSW Art & Design.

We are in Wonder LAND: new experimental art from Central Australia, Galleries UNSW, May 15-August 15.



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