

# Barbara Long KNGWARREYE



Dates: 1957  
Language: Alyawarre  
Community: Ampilatwatja  
Art: Occidental  
Region: Central Desert  
State: Northern Territory



Barbara Long Kngwarreye was born in 1957 in the community of Ampilatwatja, in the Utopia region of the Central Desert.

Barbara Long Kngwarreye has inherited several dreams associated with the history of her territory. Among them, the dream of medicinal plants or female ceremonial body paintings. Ampilatwatja's works show a great mastery of « *dot painting* » and also use other methods, such as that inherited from batik on silk, which consists of using a needle as a brush. This technique was the first way for the women of Utopia to represent their « *Dreams* » or legends. As in other Aboriginal communities, the paintings are dedicated to the celebration of their land and the mythical and natural riches it holds, especially the seeds - symbols of fertility, the central theme of this work.

Barbara Long Kngwarreye is referring to the edible seeds of the Ntang, a tree endemic to Australia. Nowadays, Aborigines spread a tarp on the ground and tap the tree to make the seeds fall out. Once collected, the seeds are pounded in a mortar with a grinding stone (often passed down from generation to generation) before being mixed with water to make a dough that will be cooked under the embers.

## Collective exhibitions:

2018 Suzanne O'Connell Gallery Brisbane, Queensland  
2018 Japingka Aboriginal Art Gallery Fremantle, Western Australia  
2018 Talapi Gallery Alice Springs, Northern Territory  
2017 Australian Embassy, Berlin, Germany  
2017 Woolloongabba Art Gallery  
2017 Counterweave Arts Gallery Rome, Italia  
2017 Talapi Desert Soft Light Alice Springs, Northern Territory  
2017 Whistlewood Gallery, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria  
2016 Talapi Desert Colours. Alice Springs, Northern Territory  
2016 Talapi Gallery, Alice Springs, Northern Territory

## Prize:

2018 Finalist in the 40th Alice Art Prize, The Alice Springs Art Foundation, Alice Springs, Northern Territory