

Dorothy May
Skin: Nyapana
Language: Walmajarri
Country: Cherrabun
DOB: circa 1950

Story

I was born at old Cherrabun Station along the Fitzroy River. At an early age my mother and father took me on a wagon all around Yakanarra, this is my country too.

When I grow up big I went to work at the old Cherrabun station for Katiya (Europeans), washing and cleaning. Sometimes I would go bush to get away. This is where I learnt to make damper and tea. This was when I was single girl.

After this time I met my husband Tommy May, we were friends first. We have six children. I work at Karrayili Adult Education Centre learning to read and write. I have been painting for a long time.

Exhibition History

- 2009:** Mangkaja Survey Show Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
2009 Luka (Mud) Brigitte Braun Gallery, Melbourne
2008 : Mangkaja Arts A P Bond Art Dealer, Adelaide, South Australia
: 25th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award
Museum and Art Gallery, Northern Territory
2008: Waterholes and Bush Tucker Bridget McDonald Hampton Gallery, Sydney
2007 with husband Tommy Jilji Jaa Martuwarra, Brigitte Braun Gallery, Melbourne
2006 Group Show , Six Gallery, Broome
2005 Group Show, Australian Indigenous Art Gallery
2004 Seven Mangkaja Artists, Gadfly Gallery
2003 Mangkaja Women, Raft Artspace, Darwin
2002 Group Show ,Short Street Gallery, Broome
Group Show ,Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
2001 Ngurrara Canvas, National Gallery of Australia
Mangkaja Arts Ten Years, Tandanya, Adelaide
2000 Heritage Commission Art Award, Selected to hang, Old Parliament House,
Canberra
1996 Heritage Commission Art Award Selected to hang, Old Parliament House,
Canberra
Broken Promises, Tandanya, Adelaide
1995 National Aboriginal Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the NT

Publications

- 2001** Painting Up Big, The Ngurrara Canvas , Kaltja Now National Aboriginal
Cultural Institute - Tandanya
2000 Oxford Companion to Aboriginal Art, Oxford University Press & ANU
Karrayili The history of Karrayili Adult Education Centre , IATSIS Canberra
1998 Jila Painted Waters of the Great Sandy Desert, Video Documentary / SBS
1995 12th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award. Exhibition
Catalogue.

Awards

- 1995 National Aboriginal Art Award. Winner Telstra Prize, Best work on paper.