

Media Release ~ for immediate release
Darren Pfitzner phone 08 8952 4731 email media@papunyatula.com.au
released 12/3/12 page 1 of 2

18th Biennale of Sydney posthumously presents leading Western Desert artist

Papunya Tula Artists Pty Ltd is proud to announce the inclusion of paintings by the late Makinti Napanangka AM in the 18th Biennale of Sydney: *all our relations* opening 27 June 2012.

all our relations seeks to encourage the emergence of new stories, thoughts and patterns. Since the Western Desert art movement's inception in the early 1970s, debate has continued regarding the historical placement of Western Desert art within the contemporary art spectrum. Napanangka's posthumous participation in the 18th Biennale of Sydney, by way of a series of large-scale emotive works, is bound to reignite this debate.

Makinti Napanangka is remembered as a leading figure of the Western Desert art movement and her pioneering legacy is acknowledged with her posthumous inclusion in the country's largest contemporary visual arts event, the Biennale of Sydney. Her paintings will be exhibited in the Museum of Contemporary Art alongside other international artists' providing a collective insight into their shared commonalities and difference.

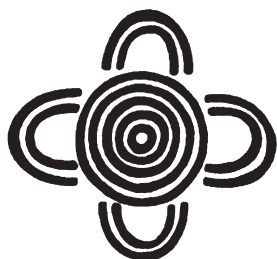
Napanangka's first contact with Europeans was as a child seeing men travelling on camels near her birthplace at Lupul by the border of Western Australia and the Northern Territory. This place was also significant to her cultural life and pivotal to her artistically. Throughout her career she expressed various depictions of this site and its associated stories.

A senior Pintupi cultural custodian and matriarch to her extended family, Napanangka was also a shareholder and director of the artists' company, Papunya Tula Artists Pty Ltd. Having made an outstanding contribution to the international recognition of Papunya Tula Artists, she remained an endearing personality of the Kintore art centre.

PAPUNYA TULA ARTISTS Pty Ltd

Founders of the Western Desert Art Movement

phone +61 8 8952 4731 fax +61 8 8953 2509 web www.papunyatula.com.au email media@papunyatula.com.au



Media Release ~ for immediate release

Darren Pfitzner phone 08 8952 4731 email media@papunyatula.com.au

released 12/3/12 page 2 of 2

Napanangka was awarded the prestigious Telstra Award in the 25th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards in 2008, having been a regular finalist of numerous art awards previously. She has exhibited in six solo exhibitions around Australia and in over 150 group exhibitions nationally and internationally.

Her lifetime achievements were acknowledged last year through her appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia. When nominated for this recognition she was retired and living in an aged care facility in Alice Springs from where the Papunya Tula Artists Aged Care Program facilitated a fulltime nurse to enable her visits to relatives and traditional lands 500km to the west. Makinti Napanangka was in her eighties when she passed away on 9 January 2011.

Family of the late Makinti Napanangka AM have approved the use of her full name, image and artworks for reproduction

Further reading on the debate of Western Desert art movement as contemporary art can be found in Ian McLean's *How Aborigines invented the idea of contemporary art*, published by University of Washington Press in 2011

For more information or for images of paintings with approval for reproduction with this story please contact please contact Papunya Tula Artists' Communications Manager, Darren Pfitzner on 08 8952 4731

PAPUNYA TULA ARTISTS Pty Ltd

Founders of the Western Desert Art Movement

phone +61 8 8952 4731 fax +61 8 8953 2509 web www.papunyatula.com.au email media@papunyatula.com.au