

MEDIA RELEASE



We don't need a map

A Martu experience of the Western desert

5 December 2014 – 15 February 2015 at Blue Mountains City Art Gallery | Blue Mountains Cultural Centre

A Fremantle Arts Centre Touring exhibition co-curated by Erin Coates; FAC Exhibitions Coordinator, Kathleen Sorensen; Martu artist and Cultural Consultant and Community Liaison Officer and Gabrielle Sullivan; Martumili Artists Manager, Shire of East Pilbara.

The successful travelling exhibition *We don't need a map*, showcases the traditional culture and knowledge of the Martu people from the Western Australian Desert, including a variety of media such as paintings, digital animation, immersive videos installations, cutting edge new media collaborations of artists from across Australia, Martu objects and photographic portraits. This exhibition is now on National Tour and will be shown for the first time in New South Wales at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.

Developed over nearly three years, this exhibition was the result of a number of unique collaborations between Martu and other artists, and provides a unique insight into their significant, enduring and contemporary culture. It originally opened at Fremantle Arts centre on 16 November 2012,

The Martu are the traditional owners of a vast area of the Western Desert and live today in the remote communities of Jigalong, Parnngurr, Punmu, Kunawarritji, Irrungadji and in the town of Newman, in Western Australia's Pilbara region. Martu artists have gained international recognition in recent years for their painting practices and their artworks are held in national collections.

We don't need a map exhibiting artists

Yunkurra Billy Atkins
Miriam Atkins
May Chapman
Ngamaru Bidu
Jakayu Biljabu
May Brooks
Yikartu Bumba
Pukina Burton
Amy French
Kumpaya Girgiba
Lily Hibberd
Thelma Judson
Noreena Kadibil
Milly Kelly
Lily Long
Mulyatingki Marney
Minyawu Miller
Yuwali Janice Nixon

Nora Nungaba
Nancy Patterson
Dadda Samson
Anya Judith Samson
Dale Samson
Rita Simpson
Curtis Taylor
Ida Taylor
Muuki Taylor
Nancy Taylor
Wokka Taylor
Tobias Titz
Lynette Wallworth
Mabel Wakartu
Bugai Whyoulter
Nora Wompi
Rosie Williams
Slim Williams
Sonia William

Media Contact Details

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Exhibition Public Program

Information on selected artworks

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MARTU PAINTINGS



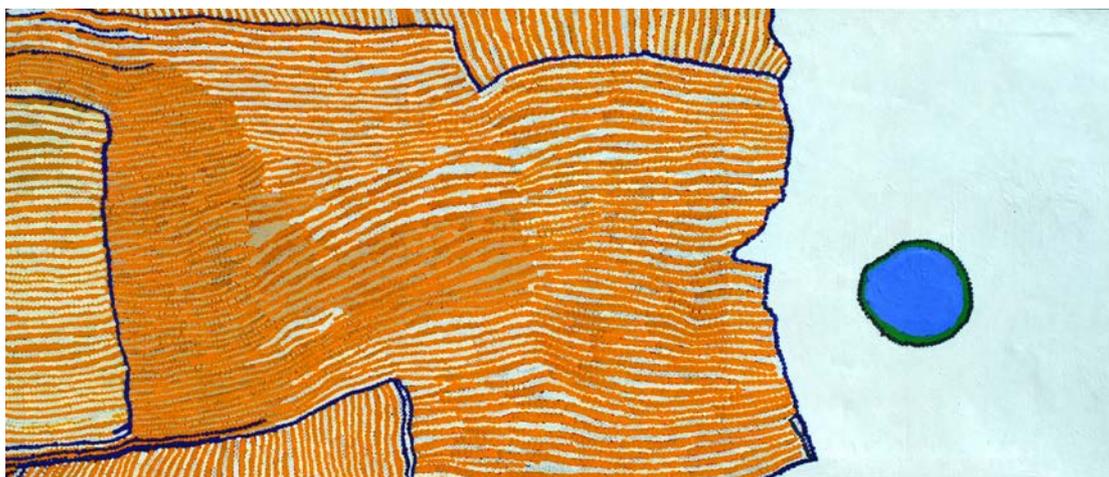
Artwork Title: Karlamilyi 2010 acrylic on canvas, 300 x 500 cm

Artists: Amy French and Lily Long

This enormous, complex painting of Karlamilyi by sisters Amy French and Lily Long is brimming with knowledge about animals and plants, journeys through this country, ancestral beings, waterholes and landforms. French and Long's distinct visual language challenges notions of desert painting, blending figurative and abstract imagery to present an energised landscape that is filled with elements of the seen and unseen world. *Karlamilyi* is presented with an interpretive wall diagram and is also accompanied by audio of French and Long singing their country.

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Artwork: Mukurtu 2007 125 x 300cm acrylic on Belgian linen
Artists: RITA SIMPSON (MUNI) and IDA TAYLOR

We don't need a map includes a selection of more than 40 paintings and represents Martu artists from the communities of Parngurr, Punmu, Kunawarritji, Jigalong, Irrungadji and Newman. These artworks are suffused with the Martu's experience of the Western Desert and explore major sites, ancestral stories, land use, fire burning practices and life in the remote desert communities.

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VIDEO & MULTI MEDIA WORKS



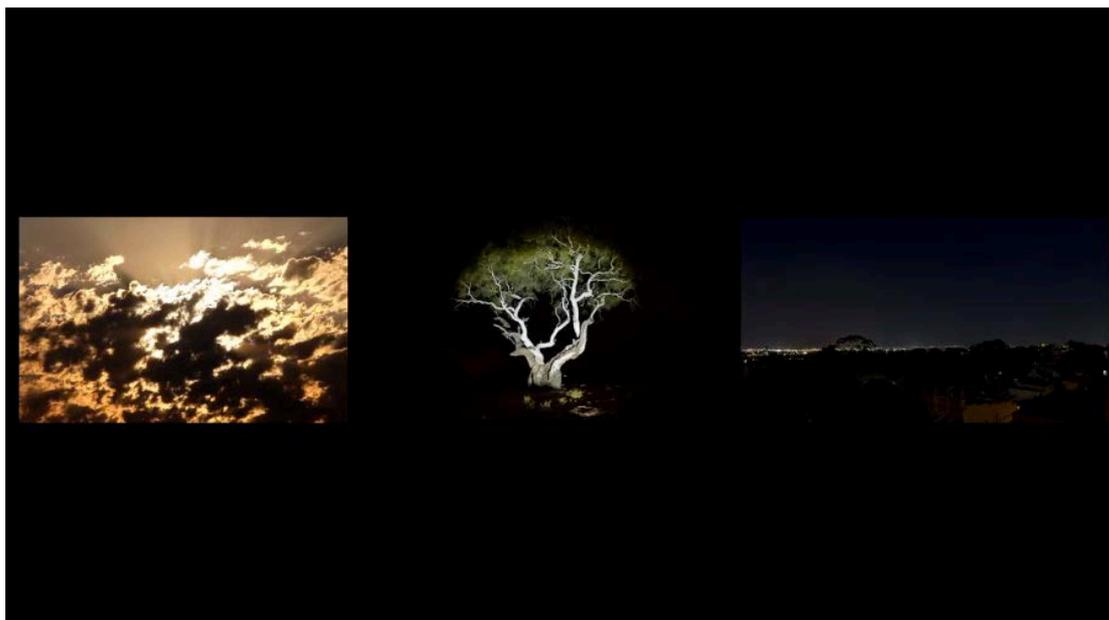
Artwork Title: Cannibal story 2012 animated video with sound, 7 minutes

Artists: Yunkurra Billy Atkins and Sohan Ariel Hayes

Kumpupirntily (Lake Disappointment) is the dangerous heart of Martu country. A place where cannibal beings live beneath the surface of the salt lake, a place where Martu fear to tread. Yunkurra Billy Atkins is the great animator of the dark narratives that score this country, and his beguiling paintings have intrigued and challenged art lovers for many years. Now new audiences are invited into the world of his art, his imagination and his country, as Yunkurra's paintings are brought to life through a unique collaboration with award-winning animator Sohan Ariel Hayes. *Cannibal Story* gives sound and motion (and a touch of violence) to the beauty and danger of Yunkurra's wondrous, original paintings.

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Artwork Title: Still Walking Country

**Nga-laju nyurri parra yarnkuni - we are here, still walking
around**

Artist: Lynette Wallworth

Invited by Martu artists to respond to country, the Sydney-based artist Lynette Wallworth travelled with a group of Martu women and long time collaborator Pete Brundle to learn about the Martu. Travelling along the Canning Stock Route, Wallworth was taken to Martu country around Parnngurr, Warntili and Tiwa. The resulting immersive multi-channel video work draws viewers into a slow observation of Martu's unbroken connection to country, via the eyes and ears of a newcomer to that country.

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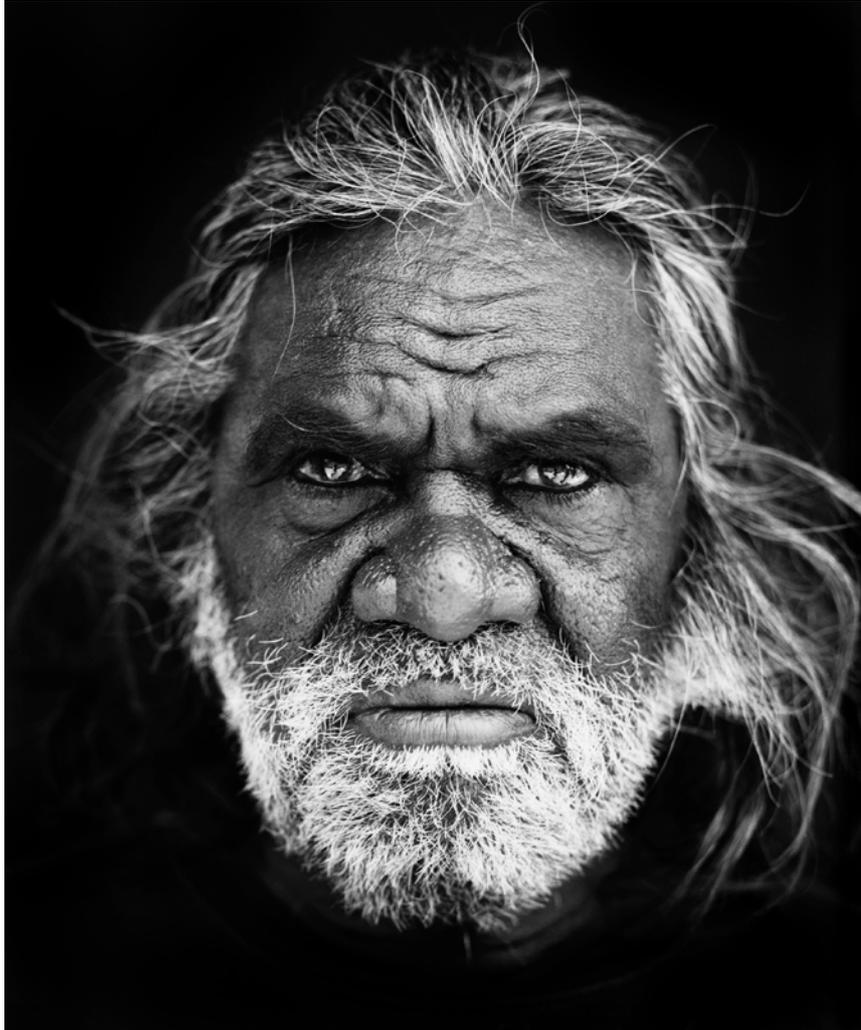


Artwork: **The Phone Booth Project**
Artists: **Lily Hibberd and Curtis Taylor**

Revealing the distinctive and compelling nature of Martu communication across the vast Western Desert, *The Phone Booth Project* features a Pilbara phone booth, large-scale video projections and multi-lingual dialogues.

Martu filmmaker Curtis Taylor and established Melbourne artist Lily Hibberd have worked collaboratively with two Martu communities, gathering candid and humorous accounts of daily life and extraordinary stories of adaptation to western technology in the use of phone booths in remote desert communities.

MARTU PORTRAITS



Artwork **Muuki Taylor portrait_34 x 49.5cm_inkjet print**
Artists **Tobias Titz**

These direct and striking photographic portraits show the participating Martu artists, rangers and Mankarr workers in *We don't need a map*. Australian-German photographer Tobias Titz has been working in the Pilbara for several years and has created these photographs with a large format camera on Polaroid 665 film. For a number of the prints, Titz asked the sitter to etch an image that represented their country into the emulsions of the negative.

MARTU OBJECTS



Baskets woven by Martu women from desert grasses and wool, shown in *We don't need a map* at Fremantle Arts Centre 2012 Photo: Max Fairclough

Finely wrought baskets, expertly carved wooden jurna (sticks), karli (boomerang) and grass sandals showcase how the Martu blend traditional skills with new materials and techniques.

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PUBLIC PRGRAM

Please see enclosed *Blue Mountains Cultural Centre Exhibition Public Program*