

# BETTY MUFFLER

Betty Muffler is a highly respected Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara artist and a revered ngangkari, a traditional Anangu healer. Embracing a subtle monochromatic palette, Muffler creates sublime and sophisticated paintings evoking landscapes that reveal the artist's reverence for her Country, her ngangkari spirit and her people.

Born in 1944 near Watarru, close to the border of South and Western Australia, Muffler survived the British atomic testing conducted at Maralinga and Emu Junction where many of her close family were displaced or died from the catastrophic aftereffects. Witnessing the devastating effect this event had on her family and their ancestral Country left a lifelong impact on Muffler that she addresses through her ngangkari practice and the recurring depiction of healing sites in her paintings titled 'Ngangkari Ngura' (Healing Country).

Widely celebrated and revered for her contemporary practice, Muffler was awarded the Emerging Artist Award at the 34th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA) presented by the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin in 2017 at the esteemed age of 73. She has since been recognised as a NATSIAA finalist in 2018, 2020 and 2022 and has been featured in Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art at the Art Gallery of South Australia in 2015, 2017, and 2020.

## BETTY MUFFLER

1944 Born in Watarru, South Australia  
Currently lives and works in Indulkana, Anangu Pitjantjatjara  
Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023 NGV Triennial 2023, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia  
Soft and Weak like Water, 14th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju Biennale,  
Gwangju, South Korea

2022 Tarnanthi on Tour: Kungka Kunpu, AGSA followed by National tour to:  
Ngununggula, NSW, Maitland Regional Gallery, NSW, HOTA Gallery, QLD,  
Geelong Gallery, VIC, Bunjil Place Gallery, VIC, Australia  
Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum  
& Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia  
Like a Wheel That Turns: The 2022 Macfarlane Commissions, ACCA,  
Melbourne, Australia  
Mara ala - Open Hands, Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane, Australia  
All About Art, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Australia

2021 Exposure: Native Art and Political Ecology, IAIA Museum of  
Contemporary Native Arts, Santa Fe, US  
Observance, Buxton Contemporary, Melbourne, Australia  
The National, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

- Nganana Mukurikula Paintamilani - We Love To Paint!, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- Walka Wiru Nganampa - Our Wonderful Paintings, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, Australia
- 2020 Open Hands - TARNANTHI, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia
- Greenworld, Bayside Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- Kulata Tjuta, Musée des Beaux-Arts in Rennes, Brittany, France
- Artists of the APY Art Centre Collective, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- Akuri Tjuta, APY Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2019 Before Time Began, Fondation Opale, Lens, Switzerland
- APY LANDS LA - Central Desert Painters of Australia, Olsen Gruin, Los Angeles, USA
- Milpatjunanyi, APY Gallery, Adelaide, Australia
- Ngangkari, RAFT Artspace, Alice Springs, Australia
- Wilurara Ananyi, Short St Gallery, Broome, WA, Australia
- Ngangkari Ngara (Healing Country), Short St Gallery, WA, Australia
- Tjilpi + Pampa - Senior Iwantja Artists, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2018 Nganana Kuranyukutu Ma-Palyani - For Our Future Generations, APY Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- Ngura Kunpu (Strong Country), Short St Gallery, Broome, WA, Australia
- Kungka Kunpu (Strong Women), Koskela, Sydney NSW Telstra NATSIA Awards, finalist, MAGNT, Darwin, Australia
- Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, Australia
- Artists of the APY Art Centre Collective, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2017 TARNANTHI, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia
- Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, Australia
- Walma - Moon Rise, Koskela Art Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- Iwantja Arts Exhibition, Short St Gallery, Broome, Australia
- Time and Tide, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- Artists of the APY Lands, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- APY kakarara nguru : kuwaritja - APY East : New Wave, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, Australia
- 2016 APY Exhibition, Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Queensland, Australia
- 2015 APY Exhibition, Raft Artspace, Alice Springs, Australia
- Nganampa Ngura, Ngananmpa Tjukurpa, Artitja Fine Art, Perth, Australia
- Ngura Wangkanyi (Talking about Country), Printmaker Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2014 Indigenous Literacy Exhibition, McCulloch and McCulloch, Sydney, Australia
- Desert Mob, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, Australia
- Ngintaka Country, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Artbank, Sydney, Australia  
Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia  
Foundation Opale, Lens, Switzerland

## AWARDS

2022 Finalist, NATSIAA, General Painting Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia  
2022 Finalist, NATSIAA, General Painting Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia  
2018 Finalist, NATSIAA, General Painting Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia  
2017 Winner, NATSIAA, Emerging Artist Award, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia