

= Peggy Rockman Napaljarri =

Peggy Rockman Napaljarri ( also known as Peggy Yalurrngali Rockman Napaljarri ) ( born c . 1940 ) is a Warlpiri @-@ speaking Indigenous artist from Australia 's Western Desert region . Born on what is now Tanami Downs pastoral station , she learned English when working as a child with a white mining family ; Peggy Rockman and her family were subsequently relocated by government authorities to Lajamanu , a new community west of Tennant Creek , Northern Territory . Peggy Rockman is one of the traditional owners of Tanami Downs .

Since first learning painting through an adult education course in 1986 , Peggy Rockman has painted particular ' dreamings ' , including Ngatijirri ( budgerigar ) , Warna ( snake ) , Laju and Ngarlu . Her work is in the collection of the National Gallery of Victoria and the Art Gallery of New South Wales . She has co @-@ written Yimikirli : Warlpiri Dreamings and Histories , a collection of texts in the Warlpiri language with English translations .

= = Life = =

Peggy Rockman was born around 1940 . The ambiguity around the year of birth is in part because Indigenous Australians operate using a different conception of time , often estimating dates through comparisons with the occurrence of other events . Some sources give only " Lima " as a location ; a more detailed account suggests she was born at Mungkururpa , on Tanami Downs ( formerly Mongrel Downs ) , a pastoral station in Australia 's Northern Territory .

Her name given at birth was Yalurrngali : Peggy Rockman was a name subsequently given to her by white administrators . ' Napaljarri ' ( in Warlpiri ) or ' Napaltjarri ' ( in Western Desert dialects ) is a skin name , one of sixteen used to denote the subsections or subgroups in the kinship system of central Australian Indigenous people . These names define kinship relationships that influence preferred marriage partners and may be associated with particular totems . Although they may be used as terms of address , they are not surnames in the sense used by Europeans . Thus ' Peggy Rockman ' is the element of the artist 's name that is specifically hers .

Peggy Rockman had three older sisters , all of whom married Jampu Jakamarra , to whom Peggy herself would also later be married . Her family first settled alongside white Australians ? a couple mining gold in the Tanami Desert ? when she was aged between six and eight . While still a child herself , she worked caring for the mining family 's children , during which time she became a proficient English speaker . After the mine was abandoned , Peggy Rockman 's family returned to a nomadic existence in the region , before settling for a time at a pastoral station called Gordon Downs . Around 1952 , the family was taken by the government 's Native Affairs Branch to a new settlement called Lajamanu , in the central desert west of Tennant Creek , Northern Territory . There , Peggy Rockman was required to work full @-@ time in the settlement 's kitchens , being paid with meals , and occasionally also with rations . At the settlement , she had three children with Jampu Jakamarra .

Peggy Rockman was one of six children of Milkila Jungarayi , and her siblings include artists Biddy Rockman Napaljarri and Mona Rockman Napaljarri . Peggy Rockman is one of the traditional owners recognised in the Tanami Downs land claim , under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976 . Biographies published in 1994 and 2003 both indicated that she was living in the Lajamanu area , but by 2010 she had settled in Katherine , Northern Territory .

= = Art = =

= = = Background = = =

Contemporary Indigenous art of the western desert began when Indigenous men at Papunya began painting in 1971 , assisted by teacher Geoffrey Bardon . Their work , which used acrylic paints to create designs representing body painting and ground sculptures , rapidly spread across Indigenous

communities of central Australia , particularly following the commencement of a government @-@ sanctioned art program in central Australia in 1983 . By the 1980s and 1990s , such work was being exhibited internationally . The first artists , including all of the founders of the Papunya Tula artists ' company , had been men , and there was resistance amongst the Pintupi men of central Australia to women painting . However , there was also a desire amongst many of the women to participate , and in the 1990s large numbers of them began to create paintings . In the western desert communities such as Kintore , Yuendumu , Balgo , and on the outstations , people were beginning to create art works expressly for exhibition and sale .

= = = Career = = =

Peggy Rockman was one of a number of artists who first learned painting through a course run in 1986 at Lajamanu by an adult education officer , John Quinn , associated with the local Technical and Further Education unit . The course , initially attended only by men , eventually enrolled over a hundred community members . Others who began their painting careers through that course include Mona Rockman Napaljarri and Louisa Napaljarri . Western Desert artists such as Peggy Rockman will frequently paint particular ' dreamings ' , or stories , for which they have personal responsibility or rights , which in Peggy 's case include Ngatijirri ( budgerigar ) , Warna ( snake ) , Laju and Ngarlu .

Peggy Rockman , together with linguist Lee Cataldi , wrote Yimikirli : Warlpiri Dreamings and Histories , a work sponsored by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies , and published in 1994 . It is a 200 @-@ page collection of oral texts , collected in Warlpiri and provided with English translations , for which Peggy Rockman was a source as well as editor . A senior dancer amongst her people , Peggy Rockman helped choose the site for , and participated in , a major ceremony for a 1993 Australian Broadcasting Corporation documentary film , Milli Milli . The ceremony , called Wati Kutjarra ( Two men ) Dreaming , was performed with others including fellow artist Susie Bootja Bootja Napaltjarri .

Peggy Rockman 's paintings have been hung in both public and commercial gallery exhibitions , including at the Araluen Centre for Arts and Entertainment and the National Gallery of Victoria 's Indigenous art exhibition " Paint Up Big " . Commercial galleries showing her work have included William Mora Galleries in Melbourne . A work by Peggy Rockman , Mukaki ? bush plum , was included in the 2007 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award . Her paintings are held by the Art Gallery of New Wales , and the National Gallery of Victoria .

= = Collections = =

Art Gallery of New South Wales  
National Gallery of Victoria