

= Susie Bootja Bootja Napaltjarri =

Susie Bootja Bootja Napaltjarri (also referred to as Susie Bootja Bootja Napangardi , Napangarti , or Napangati) (c . 1935 ? 16 January 2003) was an Indigenous artist from Australia 's Western Desert region . Born south @-@ west of Balgo , Western Australia , in the 1950s Susie Bootja Bootja married artist Mick Gill Tjakamarra , with whom she had a son , Matthew Gill Tjupurrula (also an artist) .

Susie Bootja Bootja 's painting career followed the establishment of Warlayirti Artists , an Indigenous art centre at Balgo . One of the area 's strongest artists , her work was characterised by an expressive style , and has been acquired by major Australian galleries , including the Art Gallery of New South Wales and National Gallery of Victoria . She died in 2003 .

= = Life = =

Susie Bootja Bootja was born circa 1935 near Kurtal , or Helena Spring , south @-@ west of Balgo , Western Australia ; the country is called Kaningarra in her own language , a name that appears as the title of one of her art works . 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 . While sources vary as to Susie 's skin name (some indicating Napangarti , others Napaltjarri) , the similar birth dates , locations , and work history indicate that all are referring to the one individual .

'Napaltjarri ' (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 ' Susie Bootja Bootja ' is the element of the artist 's name that is specifically hers .

Susie Bootja Bootja was of the Kukatja language group . She married artist Mick Gill Tjakamarra at Old Balgo in the 1950s , and they had a son , Matthew Gill Tjupurrula (born 1960) , who also became an artist . Susie Bootja Bootja died on 16 January 2003 .

= = 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 . Art centres were important to this widespread creation of art works .

= = = Career = = =

The Balgo community did not establish an art centre for more than ten years after their colleagues at Papunya , with artistic activities commencing when an adult education centre was opened in 1981

. However once Warlayirti Artists was set up , the community went on to become one of Australia 's most successful Indigenous art centres . Painting at the centre is a sociable , communal activity , and Susie Bootja Bootja would regularly collaborate with other painters , including her husband .

Susie Bootja Bootja was represented by Warlayirti artists at Balgo , where she was living and working in the 1990s . She was one of the strongest painters at Balgo . The work of Balgo artists such as Susie Bootja Bootja , and her fellow artists including Sunfly Tjampitjin and Wimmitji Tjapangarti , are characterised by an expressive style , involving " linked dotting and blurred forms and edges " .

Works by Susie Bootja Bootja are held by the Art Gallery of New South Wales , the National Gallery of Victoria , and the Flinders University Art Museum Collection . She is also represented in major private collections , such as Nangara (also known as the Ebes Collection) , the Holmes à Court Collection and the Morven Estate . Works by both Susie Bootja Bootja and her husband were included in a 1991 exhibition ' Yapa : Peintres Aborigenes de Balgo et Lajamanu ' in Paris , and in ' Daughters of the Dreaming ' at the Art Gallery of Western Australia in 1997 . Her paintings feature in Christine Watson 's 2003 book , Piercing the Ground : Balgo Women 's Image Making and Relationship to Country .

Susie Bootja Bootja 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 Peggy Rockman Napaljarri .

= = Collections = =

Art Gallery of New South Wales
Flinders University Art Museum Collection
National Gallery of Victoria
Holmes à Court collection