

Kimberley Kriol



# **MABEL JULI**

Date of Birth: 31/12/1932 Ngarrangarni / Totem: Emu, echidna

Language: Gija Skin: Nyawoorroo

Birth Place: Barlinyin - Springvale Station

### **Biography**

Mabel Juli is one of the most dedicated and iconic of all Warmun artists. Her seniority and status as one of Australia's most revered painters has emerged from a consistent and growing body of work characterised by bold yet simple compositions that are informed by nuanced and detailed stories passed onto Mabel from her family.

She has been featured in over one hundred group shows as well as several solo shows throughout her career; her most recent one being held in the Kimberley artists own region at the Short Street Gallery in Broome (June 2018). She has also been featured eight times as a finalist in the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards (since 1994). Mabel's Garnkiny Ngarranggarni and other dreamings continue to define the Australian Indigenous art canon; a testament to her iconic and striking expression of her Gija culture is yet again celebrated in 2018, when her Garnkiny and Bird artwork are animated in projections for "Badu Gili" on the sails of the Sydney Opera House. The result is a unique cultural setting where two iconic Australian symbols are united in a year-long event honouring and the First Nations culture and art.

Mabel Juli was born at Five Mile, near Moola Boola Station (south of Warmun), and was taken as a baby to Springvale Station, her mother's country. Mabel's 'bush name' is Wiringgoon.

She is a strong Law and Culture woman and an important ceremonial singer and dancer. Juli started painting in the 1980s, at the same time as well-known Warmun artists Queenie McKenzie and Madigan Thomas. The women used to watch Rover Thomas paint and one day he said to tell them, 'You try yourself, you might make good painting yourself'. Juli says, 'I started thinking about my country, I give it a try'. Juli is a dedicated, innovative artist who continues to work in natural earth pigments on canvas. She primarily paints the Ngarranggarni (Dreaming) stories of her country Darrajayin which is covered largely by Springvale Station.

Mabel started work on the station as a little girl, and as a young woman moved to Bedford Downs Station and Bow River Station to work. Juli's mother is Mary Peters. Juli is one of seven children - six boys and one girl, Mabel. Well known artist Rusty Peters is Mabel Juli's brother. He also paints at the Warmun Art Centre.

Mabel left Springvale Station to be with her promised husband. Together they moved to different cattle stations in the Kimberley, including Bow River and Bedford Downs. Mabel and her husband had six children. He passed away in 1982; Mabel was 42.

ARTIST STATEMENT 2004: 'I started painting when the old girl [Queenie McKenzie] was here - she was the one who taught me to paint. She told me, 'You try that painting', and I started to paint. I was doing that Garnkiny [Moon Dreaming]; that's the painting I started with - because my mother and father told me that Ngarranggarni [Dreamtime] story. I was reminded of all those stories from my mum and dad - like Glingennayn Hill and the Old Woman Singing Out for Her Dog. Those stories come from my country [Springvale]. 'They used to take me out bush when I was a little girl - good size - and they told me all about those Dreamtime stories. And I always remember those stories. I got 'em in my brain.'

ARTIST STATEMENT, 2007: 'I'm feeling pretty good. I like going to exhibitions, going to Sydney, feels good. 'I'm always busy. I finish the work, the painting, and go home. Go to [Warmun Community] council meetings, go to court [as an elder]. I got to make money to get tucker for my grandchildren. I still think about Aunty [Queenie McKenzie, who taught her to paint]. When I do paintings. She tell me about stories.'

ARTIST STATEMENT, 2018: "Ohh, too many years I've been working. When I was young, I was working around the school and my auntie Queenie [Mckenzie] asked me to do painting...I'm the first one to do painting. Other people, they all bin in the station, working you know... I'm getting old now. That's what I do - painting - and my auntie, she learned me for painting. I've never do the [new] Ngarrganggarni (Dreaming) yet, only the old one. [The new one] might be next year... yeah."

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#### **Themes**

Darrajayin (Springvale Station) country

Events post-white settlement

Garn'giny Ngarranggarni (Moon Dreaming)

Jowigin (Billimack)

Moola Boola

Traditional Ngarranggarni (Dreaming) stories such as Marranyji &

**Jiyirriny** 

Yarangga, Chinamans Garden

#### **Solo Exhibitions**

2019 July Mabel Juli & Rusty Peters "Stories of Garnkiny" - RAFT Artspace, Alice Springs, NT

2018 July Mabel Juli Solo at Short Street Gallery, Broome - A solo show featuring the various dreamings and artwork of

renowned Gija artist, Mabel Juli

**2016 December** Garkiny doo Wardel (Moon and star) - Harvey Art Projects, Idaho USA

2013 November Sublime Paintings - Seva Frangos Art, Perth, WA

2010 January Garnkiny Ngarranggarni - Seva Frangos Art, Perth, WA

2006 December The Great Mabel Juli, Short St. Gallery at Mary Place Gallery - Sydney, NSW

**2006 January** Gabrielle Pizzi Gallery - Melbourne, Vic

2004 January Kaliman Gallery - Sydney, NSW

**2002 January** Gabrielle Pizzi Gallery - Melbourne, Vic

### **Group Exhibitions**

**2021 May** Garn'giny not Granite - McCulloch and McCulloch, Richmond, VIC

2020 November One Foot on the Ground, One Foot in the Water - La Trobe Art Institute, Bendigo, Vic
 2020 October Whenua Ukaipo/United Nations 75 - Public Trust Hall, Te Whanganui-a-tara Wellington

**2020 October** Connected: MCA Collection - Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney

2020 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern

Territory, Darwin

**2020 July** The Ochre Story - Japingka Aboriginal Art, Fremantle, WA

**2020 March** Matriarchs 2020 - Paul Johnstone Gallery, Darwin

**2020 January** By The Strength Of Their Skin - Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville, USA

**2019 December** VOID - Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, NSW

**2019 November** "Connection to Country" Fundraiser exhibition, Form Gallery, Perth WA - Environmental Defenders Office of WA

2019 August Warmun Artists / Whenua - Tim Melville Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand

2019 August 2019 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern

Territory, Darwin

**2019 July** The lover circles his own heart - Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney

2019 July "Our Land Our Place" NAIDOC Week exhibition by Artitja Fine Art - Government House, Perth

2019 June Material Place: Reconsidering Australian Landscapes - UNSW Galleries, Sydney
 2019 June ZZZZ: Sleep, Somnambulism, Madness - Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne

**2019 March** Earthworks - JGM Gallery, London

2019 February Desert River Sea, Art Gallery of Western Australia - A landmark exhibition of Kimberley Aboriginal Art held at the

Art Gallery of WA in February 2019.

2018 November Environs Kimberley Art Auction - Gallows Gallery, WA

2018 November Jooroob "Coming Together" Exhibition - Warmun Art and Jirrawun Artworks curated by Nichola Dare, Aboriginal

Contemporary

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2018 October Art for Wellbeing, Boab Health Services - Kununurra WA

2018 September Void Exhibition, UTS Art Gallery - Curated by Emily McDaniel. http://art.uts.edu.au/index.php/exhibitions/void/

2018 August Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards 2018 - Finalist

2018 July Badu Gili (Light, Water), Sydney Opera House - A one-year exhibition of Indigenous Art animated and projected

on the Sydney Opera House sails.

2018 July Moon Dreaming & Other Stories - Tim Melville Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand

**2018 June** DREAM TIME MINE - FORM Gallery Perth, curated by Kate Alida Mullen

2018 April GIJA Exhibition, Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Queensland - An exhibition honouring the Warmun artists, and 20

years of the Gija art movement.

**2018 March** Other People Think, Auckland Art Gallery Toi O Tamaki - Other People Think: Auckland's Contemporary

International Collection vividly reflects a turn towards the Asia Pacific region, including South America, which

respects the changing demographics of New Zealand's largest and most diverse city.

2018 March Warmun At Twenty Exhibition - A group exhibition celebrating 20 years of Warmun Art Centre, Nancy Sever

Gallery, Canberra

2017 June Spiritual essence of the Earth with Warmun artists - Aboriginal Signature Estrangin gallery • Brussels

2017 May For the Women - Tandanya, Adelaide2016 November Middle Distance - Hanging Valley

**2016 June** Telling Tales: excursions in narrative form - Museum of Contemporary Art, Australia

2015 September LIVELY: New Prints from Warmun Arts - Nomad Arts, Darwin NT

2015 February Garnkiny: Constellations of Meaning - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA

2015 February Recent paintings by senior Gija artists from Western Australia - Nancy Sever Gallery, Canberra, ACT

**2014 September** Garnkiny: Constellations of Meaning - RMIT Gallery, Melbourne, Vic

2014 March Gija Contemporary Art from Warmun - Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney. NSW

**2014 February** Warmun Aboriginal Art - Art Images Gallery, Adelaide, SA

2014 February Warmun: Gija Contemporary Art of Western Australia - Harvey Art Projects, USA

**2014 February** Transitions - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA

2013 November Jadagen Warnkan Barnden — Changing Climate in Gija Country - Goulburn Regional Gallery, NSW

**2013 August** Jadagen Warnkan Barnden — Changing Climate in Gija Country - The Cross Art Projects, Sydney, Australia

2013 June Gija Manambarram Jimerrawoon – Gija Senior People Forever - Australian Embassy, Paris, France

**2012 December** Warrmarn - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC

2012 March Earth: Ochre Painting from Warmun - Tim Melville Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand

2011 January (Re) - Currents of Warrambany - Gecko Gallery, Broome, WA2011 January Deeper Water Tim Melville Gallery - Auckland, New Zealand

**2011 January** My Country and Me - ReDot Gallery, Singapore

**2011 January** Warmun 2011, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC -

**2010 January** Kimberley Aboriginal Artists, Cross Cultural Art Exchange - Darwin, NT

2010 January
 27th Telstra NATSIAA - Museum and Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
 2010 January
 Ochre: Aboriginal Painting from Warmun - Tim Melville Gallery, New Zealand

**2010 January** Warmun - Our Earth Our Story - Art Images Gallery, Norwood, SA

2010 January Surface of Our Dreaming - Paintings by Gija Women - Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT

**2010 January** Putipula Gallery - Noosa, QLD

**2010 January** Desert Country Art Gallery of South Australia - Adelaide, SA and touring nationally

2010 January Mabel Juli Garnkiny + Marlene Juli Gurlabal - Seva Frangos Art, Perth, WA
 2010 January No Name Station, Getrude Contemporary - Vic & Iberia Centre, Beijing

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**2008 December** Ochre: A Study in Materiality - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA

2008 December Warmun Ochres: Rich Earth - Gadfly Gallery, Perth, WA
 2008 December The Youngest One - Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
 2008 December The Best of the Best 2 - Framed Gallery, Darwin, NT

2008 December Warnarran Gelengen: Old Times New Times - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
 2008 December Ochre Dreaming: Stories from the East Kimberley - Redot Gallery, Singapore

**2008 December** First and second generation artists from Waringarri and Warmun - Seva Frangos Gallery, Perth, WA

2008 December Sharing Difference on Common Ground: Mangkaja, Mowanjum, Waringarri, Warmun - Holmes a Court Gallery,

Perth, WA

**2007 December** Warmun at Ten: A Decade of Warmun Art - Hogarth Gallery, Sydney, NSW

2007 December Melbourne Art Fair: Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi - Royal Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne, Vic

2007 December
 2007 December
 A Stint of Prints: New etchings from Warmun Art Centre - Nomad Art Productions, Darwin, NT
 2007 December
 Red Centre, Red Dot: Celebrating Indigenous Australia - Australian High Commission, Singapore

2007 December East of East Kimberley: Warmun in Asis - ReDot Gallery, Singapore
 2007 December The Women of Warmun: Ten years on - Gadfly Gallery, Perth, WA

2007 December Traces of Country: Indigenous fine art prints - Gecko Gallery, Broome, WA
 2007 December 'Warmun: Ten Years On, Five Artists - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Vic
 2007 December Star Crossed lovers of the Kimberleys - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Vic

2007 December Warmun at Ten, Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair - Darwin, NT

**2007 December** Ten Years of Warmun Ochres - Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT

**2006 December** Warmun Snapshot, Aboriginal Art Fair - Darwin, NT

2006 December Greetings from Turkey Creek - Mary Place Gallery, Sydney, NSW
 2006 December Warmun Artists in New York - Ralph Pucci Gallery, New York, USA
 2006 December Warda-Wurrarem (all kinds of stars) - Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT
 2006 December Ngarrangkarni & Bible Stories - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Vic

2006 January Patrick Mung Mung & Mabel Juli - Gabrielle Pizzi Gallery, Melbourne, Vic

2006 January Warmun Art Centre Presents - Mary Place Gallery, Sydney, NSW

2006 January2006 JanuaryBungle Bungles - Short St. Gallery, Broome, WA2006 JanuaryWarmun Arts - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW

**2005 January** Warmun Womens Show - Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Vic

2005 January Best of Warmun - Gadfly Gallery, Perth, WA

2005 January2005 JanuaryGija: Across the Border - Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT2005 JanuaryNew Work from Warmun - Gadfly Gallery, Perth, WA

2005 January Waterhole 11, GrantPirrie in conjunction with Raft Artspace - Sydney, NSW

**2005 January** Waterhole Country - Short St. Gallery, Broome, WA

**2004 January** Die inneren & die äußeren Dinge - Stadtgalerie Bamberg, Germany

2004 January Short St. Gallery - Broome, WA

**2003 January** Éast Kimberley Easter Show - Short St. Gallery, Broome, WA

2003 January Ochre works by Six Warmun Women - Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs, NT

2003 January
 True Stories: Art of the East Kimberley, Yiribana Gallery - Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, NSW
 2003 January
 The World luxury cruise ship: Indigenous art exhibition in conjunction with Thornquest Gallery -

**2003 January** The Moon Show - Short St. Gallery with ArtHouse Gallery, Sydney, NSW

2003 January Recent Works in Ochre by Warmun - Framed Gallery, Darwin, NT

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**2003 January** Masters Exhibition, Gallery Gondwana - Alice Springs, NT

2002 January
 2002 January
 Coomalie Culture Centre - Batchelor, NT
 2002 January
 Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi - Melbourne, Vic
 2002 January
 Thornquest Gallery - Gold Coast, Qld

**2002 January** Span Gallery - Melbourne, Vic

**2002 January** Easter Show, Bett Gallery - Hobart, Tas

**2002 January** Tandanya, Women of the East Kimberley - Adelaide, SA

2002 January Flinders University Art Museum - Adelaide, SA

**2002 January** Die Kraft & das Licht - Neuer Kunstverein Aschaffenburg, Germany

**2002 January** Love Your Work - Fremantle Arts Centre, Perth, WA

**2002 January** Kult(o)urnacht, Aboriginal Art Galerie Baehr - Speyer, Germany

**2001 January** Short on Size, Short St. Gallery - Broome, WA

2001 January Das Verborgene im Sichtbaren (the Unseen in Scene) - Stadtische Galerie Wolfsburg, Germany

**2001 January** Fireworks Gallery - Brisbane, Qld

2001 JanuaryPast Modern, Short Street Gallery - Sydney, NSW2001 JanuaryOchre Show, Short St. Gallery - Broome, WA

**2001 January** Beyond Wings, Flinders University Art Museum - Adelaide, SA

2000 January Melbourne Art Fair - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi & Chrysalis Publishing, Melbourne, Vic

2000 January Telstra NATSIAA Exhibition - Darwin, NT

**2000 January** Hogarth Galleries - Sydney, NSW

2000 January State of My Country - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW

2000 January Ben Grady Gallery - Canberrra, ACT2000 January Gallerie Australis - Adelaide, SA

2000 January Limited Edition Prints - Chrysalis Publishing, Melbourne, Vic

**2000 January** Bett Gallery - Hobart, Tas

2000 January Traumpfade, Zeitgenossische Malerei australischer - Aborigines Stadtische Galerie, Traunstein, Germany

2000 January BlickDicht: An- und Einblicke Zeitgenossische - Adelhausermuseum, Freiburg, Germany

**2000 January** Kunst der Aborigines - Leverkusen & Dormagen, Germany

**1999 January** Hale School Annual Art Exhibition - Perth, WA

**1999 January** Japingka Gallery - Perth, WA

**1999 January** East Kimberley Art Awards - Kununurra, WA

1999 January Karen Brown Gallery - Darwin, NT

1999 January Spirits from an Empty Land - Riverside Studios, London, UK

1999 January Hogarth Galleries - Sydney, NSW1999 January Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi - Melbourne, Vic

1999 January Desert Designs - Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA

1995 January Paintings by Warmun Women - Australian Girls Own Gallery

1994 January

The 11th National Aboriginal Art Award Exhibition - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT

1994 January Maintaining Family Tradition, International Year of the Family Conference - Adelaide Festival Centre, SA

1994 January Australian Heritage Commssion National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award Exhibition - Old Parliament

House, Canberra, ACT

Collections Bibliography

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Group Exhibitions			
Collections	Bibliogr	Bibliography	
ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, NSW	1999	'Ngalangangpum Jarrakpu Purrurn: Mother and Child',	
ART GALLERY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, SA		Margaret Stewart, Magabala Books, Broome, WA	
ARTBANK BERNDT MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH, WA	2001	'From Digging Sticks to Writing Sticks: Stories of Kija Women', Veronica Ryan, Lamb Print, Perth, WA 'No-Name Station', Gertrude Gallery, Warmun Art Centre, Iberia Gallery Beijing 'Digging for Ochre with Mabel Juli' ABC Open on-line project 'I am an artist, I come from the Bush' ABC Open on- line project	
BROADMEADOWS HEALTH SERVICE COLLECTION, MELBOURNE,			
VIC CHARTWELL COLLECTION, AUCKLAND ART GALLERY TOI O	2011		
TAMAKI	2011		
COSMOLOGY GALLERY, GRAVITY DISCOVERY CENTRE, PERTH, WA		me project	
EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION, PERTH, WA			
FTB GROUP COLLECTION			
HARLAND COLLECTION, NSW			
HARVEY WAGNER COLLECTION, USA			

NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK

KAPLAN COLLECTION, USA KERRY STOKES COLLECTION

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, IAN POTTER CENTRE,

MELBOURNE, VIC

NORTHERN TERRITORY UNIVERSITY COLLECTION, NT

KING EDWARD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, PERTH, WA MURDOCH UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION, WA

PARLIAMENTARY ART COLLECTION, ABORIGINAL PEOPLES ROOM,

PARLIAMENT HOUSE, PERTH, WA

PHILLIP HARDING COLLECTION, QLD

QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY, QLD

WESFARMERS COLLECTION, WA

FOUNDATION BURKHARDT- FELDER ARTS ET CULTURE

**SWITZERLAND** 

NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA, ACT

Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra, ACT

University of Liège, Belgium

Private Collections, Australia, Asia, Europe, North America

Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, New Zealand

Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney

TATE, LONDON, UK

Tate Modern/ MCA

2020	37th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award Finalist	2020	Collaborate 2020, Wesfarmers Arts
2019	36th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award Finalist		
2018	35th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award Finalist		
2015	32nd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award Finalist		

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#### **Awards**

Under The Sun: The Kate Challis RAKA Award for 2013 Visual Arts 27th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait 2010 Islander Art Award Finalist 18th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait 2001 Islander Art Award Finalist 17th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait 2000 Islander Art Award Finalist Australian Heritage Commission Art Award Finalist 1994 11th National Aboriginal Art Award Exhibition, 1994 Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

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