

## **Mawakura Jimmy Nerrimah**

**Language: Walmajarri**

**Skin: Jakarra**

**Birthplace: Wili in the Great Sandy Desert**

**Date of birth: Circa 1924**

Mawukura is a Walmajarri man. His country is around Wayampajarti a *Jila* (a permanent waterhole) in the North Western area of the Great Sandy Desert. He was born near a waterhole called *Wili*, at a swamp called *Miyitinyanguwu*. He calls the names of places such as *Tapu*, *Kurjalpartu*, *Kayalijarti*, *Kurraly Kurraly*, *Walypa*, *Wayampajarti*, *Kumpujarti* and *Witikarrijarti* as the main waterholes in his country. He grew up in the desert moving around these waterholes.

Mawukura was 'nearly a man' when his father brought him to the station country to escape a very large fire that was burning in his country around Tapu. A lot of people moved into the Stations around this time owing to drought's and bushfires. He went through law at *Lumpu Lumpu* and then went back to the desert with his father in law where he lived for around five more years. The police came around there once he says but they did not pick him up, they gave him food. The police continued on but they were frightened by *kalpurtu* so they kept gong, straight back to town. The same police picked up Huey Bent and took him to Cherrabun Station not long after.

Mawukura eventually left the bush possibly in the early sixties. After coming in from the desert, Jimmy spent most of his time working on Nerrimah Station.

## **Exhibition History**

### **Solo Shows**

<b>2009</b>	Jila Ngurrara	Brigitte Braun Gallery, Melbourne
<b>2008</b>	Wet n' Wild	Artkelch, Freiburg, Germany
<b>2007</b>	Una palu kipunngani ngurrala (Whole lot, all, walking country)	Red Dot Gallery Singapore
<b>2005</b>	"Mawakura"	Artplace, Perth
<b>2005</b>	Recent works by Mawakura Jimmy Nerrimah	Raft Artspace, Darwin
<b>2004</b>	"Ngurrala Marna Kitpungani"	Brigitte Braun, 45 Downstairs Gallery, Melbourne
<b>2003</b>	"Jilawarnti"	Artplace, Perth
<b>2003</b>	Mawakura Jimmy Nerrimah	Cooee Gallery Sydney
<b>2001</b>	"jila wanti, jumu wanti & pirntiri"	Artsplace, Perth
<b>2001</b>	"Ngurrara Canvas"	National Gallery of Australia
<b>2000</b>	Short on Size	Short St Gallery, Broome
<b>1999</b>	"Kumpujarti"	Artplace, Perth

- 1994** Reflections of the Kimberley Gallery, Derby Artplace, Perth  
**1994** Mawakura Jimmy Nerrimah Reflections of the Kimberley Gallery,  
 Derby  
**1993** Mawakura Jimmy Nerrimah Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne

### Group Shows

- 2008** Mangkaja Arts A P Bond Art Dealer, Adelaide,  
 South Australia  
**2008** More Than A Few Good Men Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane  
**2008** Mangkaja Artists WA Randell Lane Fine Arts, Perth  
**2008** Shalom Gamarada Caspary Conference Centre,  
 University of NSW  
**2007** Elysees de l'Art Galerie Arts d'Australie, Paris  
**2007** Bendi Lango Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane  
**2007** X Marks the Spot Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane  
**2007** Jila, Jilji and Miya Cool-Art, Sunshine Coast, QLD  
**2007** Colour Power National Gallery of Victoria  
  
**2005** "Too much good work" Raft Artplace, Darwin  
**2002** Melbourne Art Fair (Artplace stand)  
**2001** Group Show with Peter Skipper Cooe Gallery, Sydney  
**2001** Group Exhibition Framed Gallery, Darwin  
**2001** *Ngurrara Canvas* National Gallery of Australia  
**2000** Short on Size Short St Gallery, Broome  
**1999** 16<sup>th</sup> NATSIAA Department of Arts & Museums,  
 Darwin  
  
**1999** Aboriginal Kunst aus West-Australien Gallery Gaswerk, Germany  
**1999** Group Show with Peter Skipper Cooe Gallery, Sydney  
**1999** Selected to hang in 16th Aboriginal Darwin  
 & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards  
**1994** Art Award, Art Prize City of Gosnells  
**1994** ACAF 4 Art Fair Melbourne, Artplace stand  
**1994** Eight Western Australian Artists The Blaxland Gallery, Sydney  
**1994** ACAF-4, Fourth Australian Melbourne  
 Contemporary Art Fair

### Publications

- 2006** Book of Days Berndt Museum of Anthropology,  
 WA  
**2005** Nerrimah's ripples a lush desert oasis Ric Spence, The West Australian 20/8  
**2003** *Salt, sand and waterholes* Simon Blond, The West Australian  
 29/03  
**2001** Australian Painting 1788-2000 Oxford University Press & ANU

	Neville Weston "Intuition from the outside". In: The Big Picture	The Western Australian, 17/11.
<b>2000</b>	<i>Kaltja Now, Indigenous Arts Australia</i> Aboriginal	Wakefield Press & Tandanya Cultural Institute
<b>2000</b>	<i>Oxford Companion to Aboriginal Art</i>	Oxford University Press & ANU
<b>1999</b>	<i>Utopian Visions</i>	David Bromfield, The West Australian 23/10
<b>1998</b>	<i>Jila Painted Waters of the Great Sandy Desert</i>	Video Documentary / SBS Television
<b>1995</b>	<i>Late Starter Tells Desert Story in Bright Acrylics</i>	Anna King Murdoch, The Age 3/12
<b>1994</b>	<i>Playful Air to Dottiness of Bushcapes</i> Late starter tells desert sotry in the bright acrylics	Rod O'Brien, The West Australian1993 Anna King Murdoch, The Age, 3/12

### **Collections**

Levy Kaplan Collection, Seattle USA  
 Thomas Vroom Collection, Amsterdam  
 National Gallery of Australia  
 Art Gallery of Western Australia  
 Gabrielle Pizzi  
 Royal Perth Hospital  
 Berndt Museum  
 Ian & Sue Berndt Collections  
 Wesfarmers Ltd  
 Sir James & Lady Cruthers Collection  
 Artbank  
 Hyphema Collection  
 Private Collections U.S., Europe, Asia & Australia

### **Awards**

**1994** Aboriginal Art Prize City of Gosnells Art Award