

**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*, *Kurrjalpartu*, *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>2011</b>	Kurralu Kurraly	Brigitte Braun Gallery, Melbourne
<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"	Artplace, Perth
<b>2001</b>	"Ngurrara Canvas"	National Gallery of Australia

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|-------------|---|--|
| <b>2000</b> | Short on Size                               | Short St Gallery, Broome                       |
| <b>1999</b> | "Kumpujarti"                                | Artplace, Perth                                |
| <b>1994</b> | Reflections of the Kimberley Gallery, Derby | Artplace, Perth                                |
| <b>1994</b> | Mawakura Jimmy Nerrimah                     | Reflections of the Kimberley Gallery,<br>Derby |
| <b>1993</b> | Mawakura Jimmy Nerrimah                     | Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne             |

### Group Shows

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|-------------|---|---|
| <b>2010</b> | Little Beauties   | Brigitte Braun Gallery, Melbourne                 |
| <b>2008</b> | Mangkaja Arts   | A P Bond Art Dealer, Adelaide,<br>South Australia |
| <b>2008</b> | More Than A Few Good Men  | Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane               |
| <b>2008</b> | Mangkaja Artists WA   | Randell Lane Fine Arts, Perth                     |
| <b>2008</b> | Shalom Gamarada   | Caspary Conference Centre,<br>University of NSW   |
| <b>2007</b> | Elysees de l'Art  | Galerie Arts d'Australie, Paris                   |
| <b>2007</b> | Bendi Lango   | Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane                       |
| <b>2007</b> | X Marks the Spot  | Woolloongabba Art Gallery, Brisbane               |
| <b>2007</b> | Jila, Jilji and Miyi  | Cool-Art, Sunshine Coast, QLD                     |
| <b>2007</b> | Colour Power  | National Gallery of<br>Victoria                   |
| <b>2005</b> | "Too much good work"  | Raft Artplace, Darwin                             |
| <b>2002</b> | Melbourne Art Fair  | (Artplace stand)                                  |
| <b>2001</b> | Group Show with Peter Skipper   | Cooee Gallery, Sydney                             |
| <b>2001</b> | Group Exhibition  | Framed Gallery, Darwin                            |
| <b>2001</b> | <i>Ngurrara Canvas</i>  | National Gallery of Australia                     |
| <b>2000</b> | Short on Size   | Short St Gallery, Broome                          |
| <b>1999</b> | 16 <sup>th</sup> NATSIAA  | Department of Arts & Museums,<br>Darwin           |
| <b>1999</b> | Aboriginal Kunst aus West-Australien                                    | Gallery Gaswerk, Germany                          |
| <b>1999</b> | Group Show with Peter Skipper   | Cooee Gallery, Sydney                             |
| <b>1999</b> | Selected to hang in 16th Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards |   |
| <b>1994</b> | Art Award, Art Prize  | City of Gosnells                                  |
| <b>1994</b> | ACAF 4  | Art Fair Melbourne, Artplace stand                |
| <b>1994</b> | Eight Western Australian Artists  | The Blaxland Gallery, Sydney                      |
| <b>1994</b> | ACAF-4, Fourth Australian Contemporary Art Fair                         | Melbourne   |

### Publications

- 2006** Book of Days  
Berndt Museum of Anthropology,  
WA
- 2005** Nerrimah's ripples a lush desert oasis  
**2003** *Salt, sand and waterholes*  
Ric Spencer, *The West Australian* 20/8  
Simon Blond, *The West Australian*  
29/03
- 2001** Australian Painting 1788-2000  
Neville Weston "Intuition from the outside".  
In: *The Big Picture*  
Oxford University Press & ANU  
*The Western Australian*, 17/11.
- 2000** *Kaltja Now, Indigenous Arts Australia*  
Aboriginal  
Wakefield Press & Tandanya  
Cultural Institute
- 2000** *Oxford Companion to Aboriginal Art*  
Oxford University Press & ANU
- 1999** *Utopian Visions*  
David Bromfield, *The West Australian*  
23/10
- 1998** *Jila Painted Waters of the Great Sandy Desert*  
Video Documentary / SBS Television
- 1995** *Late Starter Tells Desert Story in Bright Acrylics*  
Anna King Murdoch, *The Age* 3/12
- 1994** *Playful Air to Dottiness of Bushcapes*  
Rod O'Brien, *The West Australian* 1993
- Late starter tells desert story in the bright acrylics  
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