

Ray James Tjangala

Ray James Tjangala is a great artist that emerged from the apprenticeship to one of the pioneer painters of Papunya who founded the desert painting movement, Yala Yala Gibbs Tjungurrayi, Ray James Tjangala quickly caught the public's attention with the powerful and cyclic nature of his works that usually contain interlocking grid patterns signifying important ceremonial activities. Largely influenced with his mentor, much of his works depict the ceremonial activities done to the coming of age of young men.

His paintings usually tell the story of the Tingari Tjukurrpa or Tingari dreaming. Tingari men were said to be a group of ancestral beings of the dreamings who travelled long stretches to perform rituals and shape particular sites. Since most of the events regarding the Tingari Cycle are sacred not much detail was given about it yet most of the travels and adventures of Tingari men are preserved in their song cycles which provide much explanation for their contemporary customs. Some aspects of his paintings are secret and are known only to the initiated.

Usually his paintings are presented in two color schemes that greatly harmonized with the way he explores the possibilities of optical lines and curves on a canvas surface. This in turn entails an illusionary effect to its audiences. Born in the Yunala rockhole in the western desert which is west in Kiwirrkura in 1958, Tjangala was one of three artist sons of one of the founding members of the Papunya Art Movement, the artist Anatjari Tjampitjinpa. His brothers were George Yapa Yapa and Mantua, both like himself professional aboriginal artists. Though having a prominent artist father and brothers, Tjangala did not start painting seriously until the 90's which was after their family crossed the desert with him at the age of six under the assistance of the Welfare Patrol. The family subsequently moved to Papunya. Later in his life as a Papunya Tula Artist, Tjangala moved further west to Kiwirrkura returning to his home country together with his wife Donna Nungurrayi. This time his art became more prominent and invigorated that he became one of the most recognisable artists working for the Papunya Tula Artists company. Making his residence in Kiwirrkura, His works include national and international exhibitions;

Papunya Tula Artists 2008, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, 2007 - Papunya Tula Artists 2007, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, 2006-2007 - Gifted: Contemporary Aboriginal Art: The Mollie Gowing Acquisition Fund, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, 2006 - Papunya Tula Artists - across the board, Utopia Arts Sydney, Sydney; PTA - Papunya Tula Artists, Utopia Arts Sydney, Sydney, 2005 - Papunya Tula Artists, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne; Papunya Tula Artists - new work for a new space, Utopia Art Sydney. 2004 - EXPLAINED, A closer look at Aboriginal art, Aboriginal Art Museum, Utrecht, The Netherlands. 2003 - Kintore Kiwirrkura, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne; Art Aborigene contemporain, Arts d'Australie, Stephane Jacob / Cankarjev Dom, Ljubljana, Slovenie, 2001 - Voyage dans la matiere, Arts d'Australie o Stephane Jacob / Atelier Claude Cerf, Paris ; Salon ART PARIS, Arts d'Australie o Stephane Jacob / Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, 2000 - Arts d'Australie, Arts d'Australie o Stephane Jacob / Espace Mezzo - Avenue des Champs-Elysees, Paris; Arts d'Australie, Arts d'Australie o Stephane Jacob / Renault, Paris. 1999 - Australie - Art, Arts d'Australie o Stephane Jacob / J.L. Amsler - Bastille, Paris. 1998 - Propositions Australiennes, Arts d'Australie o Stephane Jacob / galerie Luc Queyrel, Paris.

