

Dorothy Napangardi

Born: c1952-56 Mina Mina NT

Died: 1 June 2013

Language: Warlpiri

Country: Mina Mina

Region: Lake Mackay, Tanami Desert, NT

Living for the greater part of her life in Alice Springs, Dorothy began painting in 1987 with generic 'bush tucker' designs. Dorothy's recent paintings depict elaborate and elegant interpretations of *country*, including concentrations of finely veiled grids over predominantly white or black grounds. In 2001, Dorothy won the coveted *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* for a black and white work, ***Salt on Mina Mina***. In 2002, Dorothy held a major survey of her work at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney. Her works feature in private and public collections, such as those in the National Gallery of Australia and National Gallery of Victoria, as well as in international collections in Germany, USA and the Netherlands.

Dorothy's paintings represent the journey of ancestral women to the sacred salt site of Mina Mina, a soakage bore north-west of Yuendumu, NT. The dances and ceremonies that would take place both on the journey and at Mina Mina, through sandhills and clay-pans, are in keeping with the Dreaming story that celebrates Mina Mina as their homeland and significantly, the birthplace of the digging stick. This is portrayed through the lines and waves in her painting which contributes a sense of movement and activity, whilst also alluding to the ancestral women marking their homeland with the digging stick.