

Kittey Malarvie & Karen Mills

Conversations and Connection

Darwin-based artist Karen Mills visited Waringarri Aboriginal Arts, Kununurra, Western Australia, in early 2012 as an artist in residence to learn from Waringarri's ochre painters and in turn to share her skills.

In conversation, senior artist - Kittey Malarvie and Karen Mills realised their family relationship. Their connection led to a journey to Sturt Creek Station, north of the Great Sandy Desert, where Kittey spent her childhood.

Kittey and Karen are related through marriage. Paddy King, an Aboriginal leader, was uncle to both Kittey's husband and Karen's birth mother. On the banks of the milk white waters of Sturt Creek, Kittey shared with Karen their common family history and connection to country.



These paintings connect the relationship of two artists in a conversation with country.



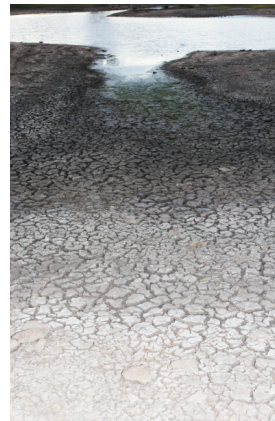
Karen Mills

Karen Mills is an Indigenous Australian visual artist, who lives and works in Darwin, Northern Territory. Born in Katherine, NT in 1960, she grew up in South Australia, after being adopted as a young baby. In 1983 she returned to seek out her natural family, discovering that her birth mother was from the East Kimberley, WA. Since then she has been researching family connections. Mills has exhibited at a national and international level. She has been selected as a Telstra NATSIAA finalist three times. In 2006 she was the inaugural recipient of the Wenten Rubuntja Northern Territory Indigenous Artist Fellowship to New York.



Kittey Malarvie

Kittey (Kitten) Malarvie was born in a mud hut at Brockman's gold mine near Hall's Creek - c.1942. She grew up at the Ord River and Sturt Creek Stations before travelling to Kununurra with her family in the early 1970's. She learnt boab carving and artefact making with her mother and father, selling to tourists on the streets and then through Waringarri Aboriginal Arts. Recently focusing on painting practice, Kittey reveals layers of meaning and story in rich ochre paintings that connect to her traditional country and childhood memories.



This exhibition has been developed in partnership between:

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