



AIATSIS

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Manuscript Finding Aid

MS 5355

Papers of Jenny Green

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MS 5355: Papers of Jenny Green

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Collection Summary

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Collection no: | MS 5355 |
| Title: | Papers of Jenny Green |
| Creator: | Green, Jenny (Jennifer Anne), 1954- |
| Date range: | 1978 – 1999 |
| Extent: | 0.9 linear metres (1 x Type 1 archival box + 1 folder in Manuscript Plan Cabinet) |
| Repository: | Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies |
| Reference code: | AIAS439.310119 |

Cultural Sensitivity Statement

Use of the material

When using this finding aid, and the collection described within it, clients are encouraged to be mindful and sensitive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; particularly with regard to the use of this material. This includes:

Language

This finding aid and collection may contain words and descriptions which may be culturally inappropriate and insensitive. The language used in this collection may not normally be used in certain public or community contexts. Clients may encounter terms and descriptions, which reflect the author's attitude or that of the period in which the manuscript was written, that may be considered inappropriate today.

Deceased persons

Clients using this finding aid should be aware that in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, hearing recordings, seeing images or the names of deceased persons may cause sadness or distress and in some cases, offend against strongly held cultural beliefs.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Content

People & Organisations

Includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, family or organisations that are associated with this collection (individuals or groups who have contributed to, performed in, or are mentioned within this collection). Please note that there may be additional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people or groups that are not included in this Finding Aid, as they have not yet been identified. If you can provide further information to AIATSIS regarding this please contact us at collectionenquiry@aiatsis.gov.au or telephone +61 2 6246 1182

Please note alternative spellings have been placed in parentheses.

Knowledge holders:

Gloria Angal
Hilda Apwerl
Lena Apwerl
Ada Petyarre Bird
Lindsay Mpetyane Bird
Kay Ngale Haywood
Ada Kemarre
Agnus Ladd Kemarre
Ally Kemarre
Annie Kemarre
Betty Beasley Kemarre
Biddy Kemarre
Daisy Kemarre
Edie Kemarre
Elsie Kemarre
Gladdis/Gladdy Kemarre
Hilda Kemarre
Janie Kemarre
Joan Morton Kemarre
Lilly Kemarre
Maggie Kemarre
Mavis Kemarre
Mavis Mpetyane Kemarre
Mary Kemarre
Nora Kemarre
Patsy Kemarre

Queenie Kemarre
Sandra Holmes Kemarre
Gloria/Glory Kngalla (Ngale)
Gracy Kngalla (Ngale)
Polly Kngalla (Ngale)
Audrey/Audrie Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Barbara Kngwarre (Kngwarreye)
Colleen Lewis Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Eileen Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Emily Kame Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Hazel Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Janis/Janice Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Jedda Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Jean/a Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Joy Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Judith Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Lilly Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Lucky Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Maureen Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Rosy Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Ruby Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Wendy Kngwarri (Kngwarreye)
Abie Mpitjana (Mpetyane)
Annie Mbitjana (Mpetyane)
Betty Mbitjana (Mpetyane)
Dora Mbitjana (Mpetyane)
Janie Mbitjana (Mpetyane)
June Mbitjana (Mpetyane)
Lilly Mbitjana (Mpetyane)
Lulule Mpwareke
Emily Ngwarai
Jean Ngwarai
Karen Foster Nungula
Wilma Ross Nungala
Julie Purvis Mpetyane
Pansy Petyarre (Apetyerr)
Pauline Dobbs Petyarre (Apetyarr)
Annie Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Audrie Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Dolly Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Janie Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)

Jeanie Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Jessie Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Josie Pitjarra (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Joy Pitjarra/Apetyarr (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Kathleen Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Katy Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Lulu Pitjarra (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Margaret Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Mary Rumble Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Mavis Pitjarra (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Myrtle Pitjarra (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Nancy Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Nora Pitjara/Apetyarr (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Pauline Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Rita Beasley Pitjarra (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Rosemary Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Suzie/Suzy Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Tammy Pitjarra (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Violet Pitjara (Petyarre, Apetyarr)
Cookie Pula (Pwerle)
Jean Pula (Pwerle)
Lena Pula (Pwerle)
Marcia Pula (Pwerle)
Michelle Holmes Pula (Pwerle)
Noreen Long Pula (Pwerle)
Gloria Pitjarre Tamerre
Barbara Weir

Community & Language

Alyawarr people C14
Alyawarr language C14
Anmatyerr people C8.1
Anmatyerr language C8.1

Country

Adelaide (SE SA SI54-09)
Akaye / Mulga Bore (South Central NT SF53-10)
Alhalkere (South Central NT SF53-10)
Ampilawatja / Ammaroo (SE Central NT SF53-07)
Aniltji / Atneltyey / Boundary Bore (South Central NT SF 53-10)

Arawerre / Soapy Bore, SE Central NT
Antarrengeny / Indaringinya (SE Central NT SF53-07)
Artekerre / Three Bores, SE Central NT
Atnarara / Soakage Bore, SE Central NT
Darwin (NT Top End SD52-04)
Ingkwelaye / Kurrajong Bore, SE Central NT
Ngwarilanima, NT
Sandover River (SE Central NT SF53-06, SF53-07, SF53-08)
Utopia (South Central NT SF53-10)

Collection Overview

Scope and contents note

The collection comprises material collected by Dr Jenny Green, from her involvement with the development of the early period of the Utopia women's batik art movement and includes: exhibition catalogues; artist files containing photographs of batik created by the Utopia artists, reports, interviews and cap (batik stamp) designs.

This collection contains both physical and digital material.

Provenance

The collection was donated to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies by Jenny Green in 2021.

Material separated from the collection

| | |
|--------------|--|
| GREEN_J08 | Utopia Batik Artists |
| GREEN.J02.DF | Portraits and processes of the Utopia Batik makers |

Related material

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| ABF B864.81/U1 | Utopia : a picture story : 88 silk batiks from the Robert Holmes à Court Collection |
| BELL_TWEEDIE.001.CS | Photographs of women's art work and general activities in Central and North Central Australia. |
| DEVITT.J04.CS | Batik painting, bush food and medicine in the Utopia region |
| p GRE | Utopia : women, country and batik |

For a complete list of works by Jenny Green held by the Library, and for other related material consult [Mura®](#), the AIATSIS catalogue.

For access to Audio / Visual material please go to the 'Contact us' page on the AIATSIS website at aiatsis.gov.au or phone (02) 6246 1111

Important: Before clicking on the links to the catalogue entries please read our sensitivity message found on the 'Search the Collection' page on the AIATSIS website at aiatsis.gov.au

Access to the Collection

Access conditions for this collection

Open access - reading. Open copying, open quotation.

Access to original digital materials in this collection is currently unavailable.

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Although Manuscripts are not available on Inter-library loan, they may be available via document supply, subject to access conditions, if they are already digitised.

Preferred citation

Items from this collection should be cited as: Title or description of manuscript item, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS Number, Series Number, Subseries Number, Item or Folder Number.

For example:

Utopia: Women Country and Batik, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5355, Series 2, Item 2

Biographical history note

Linguist, artist and educator Dr Jennifer (Jenny) Anne Green was born in 1954. Since the 1970s, Dr Green has documented signed and spoken languages, oral histories, songs, and visual arts of Indigenous people in Northern and Central Australia. In 1977 Dr Green facilitated the government sponsored program to teach the art of batik to the women of the homeland community of Utopia in the Northern Territory.

Traditionally a women's art form originating in Indonesia, batik is a method of decorating cloth by applying designs in hot wax to the fabric followed by dyes. The process may be repeated several times before removing the wax in boiling water.

The subjects of the batik works in this collection reflect the daily interactions of the artists with their environment, including leaves, flowers, seeds and grasses and incorporate designs that can be translated easily with melted wax.

These early batik workshops marked the emergence of Aboriginal women artists in their own right across the Central Desert. Prior to the workshops, Indigenous women had only been known to assist Indigenous men in the completion of their paintings and were rarely permitted to paint their own canvases.

Museum Victoria was the first cultural institution in Australia to collect Utopia batiks and in 1980, the first exhibition of the Utopia batiks was held in Mparntwe (Alice Springs). The following year, the Utopia Women's Batik Group was formed, with original members including Audrey and Emily Kngwarreye, Lena Pwerle, and the Petyarre sisters Kathleen, Violet, Gloria, Nancy, Myrtle and Ada.

References

'Jennifer Green', 2022, viewed 30 June 2023,
<https://theconversation.com/profiles/jennifer-green-1393428>

AIATSIS Corporate files

Series Description

Series 1, Artist Files, 1988

MS 5355: Papers of Jenny Green

Utopia Batik artist files from the Robert Holmes a Court Collection (later known as the Holmes a Court Collection and finally as the Janet Holmes a Court Collection). Each entry contains location, artist name, title of batik artwork, photographs or artwork and stories (some in Language).

Item

MS 5355/1/1

Folder No 1

Artists from Boundary Bore and Mulga Bore: Nora Kemarre 'Alkwenhe Waterhole'; Jean Pula 'Wild Tomatoes at Rrweltye'; Margaret Pitjara 'Green Budgerigar Dreaming'; Judith Kngwarri 'Women Gathering Bush Tucker'; Marcia Pula 'Antarrogenye Country'; Patsy Kemarre 'Burning Spinifex'; Jeanie Pitjara 'Country Alhalkere'; Rosemary Pitjara 'Bush Turkeys feasting on wild tomatoes'; Violet Pitjara 'Red Mallee and Grevillea'; Maureen Kngwarri 'Tracking Porcupine'; Dolly Pitjara 'Green Beetles and Wild Tobacco'; Kathleen Pitjara 'Atnangkere Story'; Nancy Pitjara 'The Inentye men at Atnangkere'; Maggie Kemarre 'Antarrogenye Country'; Jemma Kngwarri 'Bush Scene'; Julie Purvis Mpetyane 'Bush Potato Dreaming'; Ada Bird Petyarre 'Atnangkere Story'; Gloria Pitjarre Tamerre 'Emu Dreaming'; Mavis Pitjarra 'Spinifex Bird Dreaming'; Lindsay Bird; Pansy Petyarre 'Atarrkerte Country'; Kay Ngale Haywood 'Spinifex'; Pauline Dobbs Petyarre 'Women's Ceremony'.

MS 5355/1/2

Folder No 2

Artists from Mulga Bore, Urapuntya Shop [at Sandover], Soakage Bore and Three Bore: Lindsay Bird; Annie Mbitjana 'Women's Ceremony'; Rosy Kngwarre 'Hunting Perentie'; Polly Kngalla 'Sandover River Story'; Josie Pitjarra 'The Hungry People'; Jean/a Kngwarri 'Atnangkere Country'; Janie Mbitjana 'The Ahalpere Store'; Barbara Kngwarre 'Atnangkere Scene'; Lilly Mbitjana; Mavis Mpetyane Kemarre 'Bush Tomatoes'; Myrtle Pitjarra 'Emu Dreaming'; Dora Mibitjana 'Ahalpere Country'; Emily Kame Kngwarri 'Emu Dreaming'; Joy Pitjarra 'Alhalkere Country'; Joy Kngwarri 'Theleye Country'; Lilly Kngwarri 'The Artist's Story'; Ruby Kngwarri 'Honey Grevillea'; Gracy Kngalla 'Ahalpere Country'; June Mbitjana 'Ahalpere Country'; Tammy Pitjarra 'Bush Tomatoes'; Gloria/Glory Knalla 'Honey Grevillea'.

MS 5355/1/3

Folder No 3

Artists from Amaroo [Ammaroo] and Antarringinya [Indaringinya]: Annie Kemarre 'Wild Orange Dreaming'; Janie Kemarre 'Tracking

Porcupine'; Lilly Kemarre 'Women's Ceremony'; Agnus Ladd Kemarre 'Wild Orange Dreaming'; Biddy Kemarre 'Wild Orange Dreaming'; Joan Morton Kemarre 'Wetengerre Story'; Karen Foster Nungula 'Bush Potato Dreaming'; Wilma Ross Nungala 'Hunting Kangaroo'; Hilda Kemarre; Betty Beasley Kemarre 'Women's Ceremony'; Daisy Kemarre 'Grevillea and Grasses'; Michelle Holmes Pula 'Ancestral Scene'; Wendy Kngwarri 'Green Budgerigar Dreaming' [No photo]; Colleen Lewis Kngwarri 'Green Budgerigar Dreaming'; Noreen Long Pula 'Wild Orange Dreaming'; Rita Beasley Pitjarra (mentioned only); Ada Kemarre 'Kurrajong Seed Dreaming'; Elsie Kemarre 'The Creation of the Stars'; Edie Kemarre 'Emu Dreaming'; Sandra Holmes Kemarre 'Morning Star Dreaming'; Lulu Pitjarra 'Kurrajong Seed Dreaming', Lulule Mpwareke.

MS 5355/1/4

Folder No 4

Artists from Ngwarilanima and Kurrajong/Soapy Bore: Janis/Janice Kngwarri 'Ngkwarlerlaneme Story'; Queenie Kemarre 'Red Mallee Flowers and Bush Tomatoes'; Mary Kemarre 'Wild Orange Dreaming'; Lilly Kngwarri 'Rainbows and Honey Grevillea'; Audrey/Audrie Kngwarri 'Ngkwarlerlaneme'; Lucky Kngwarri 'Ngkwarlerlaneme'; Hazel Kngwarri 'Wild Tobacco'; Ruby Kngwarri (mentioned only); Mavis Kemarre (mentioned only); Lena Pula 'Ahalpere Dreaming'; Mary Rumble Pitjara 'Atarrkerte Dreaming'; Betty Mbitjana 'Ahalpere Country'; Eileen Kngwarri 'Night Scene'; Janie Pitjara 'Ingkwelaye Country'; Annie Pitjara 'Hunting in Arawerre Country'; Pauline Pitjara 'Ingkwelaye Country'; Katy Pitjara 'Ingkwelaye Country'; Suzie/Suzy Pitjara 'Hunting Story'; Jessie Pitjara 'Arawerre Country'; Gladdis/Gladdy Kemarre 'Birds eating bush tomatoes'; Audrie Pitjara 'Alhalkere Country'; Ally Kemarre 'The Thamarenye Men'.

Series 2, Exhibition Catalogues, 1981-1995

Catalogues produced by various Australian institutions for exhibitions featuring Utopia batik.

Item

- MS 5355/2/1 Hot Wax: An Exhibition of Australian Aboriginal Indonesian Batik Exhibition in 1995 at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.
- MS 5355/2/2 Utopia: Women Country and Batik

MS 5355: Papers of Jenny Green

Exhibition at Adelaide Festival Centre Gallery in 1981. Written and illustrated by Jenny Green. Provides information about the batik process, history of Utopia, and the lives of the women that live there.

MS 5355/2/3

Utopia: A Picture Story

Opening Exhibition at Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute 1989: 88 Works on silk, the Robert Holmes a Court Collection.

Series 3, Associated material, 1978-1999

Item

MS 5355/3/1

Making Batik at Mulga Bore, 1992

Paper/article written by Jeannie Devitt (6 pages).

MS 5355/3/2

Interview, 1991

Transcript of phone interview with Jenny Green regarding Utopia and her involvement with the introduction of batik (14 pages).

MS 5355/3/3

Utopia: Batik from the Desert, 1981

Booklet produced by Adelaide Festival Centre Gallery providing attendance statistics and patrons' feedback on the exhibition.

MS 5355/3/4

Cap designs, 1999

Photocopies of faxes of twenty batik cap [stamp] designs.

MS 5355/3/5

Utopia Women's Batik Trip to Indonesia, 1994

Two booklets about trip by Utopia batik artists to Brahma tirta sari Studio, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Contains photos of the artists and their artworks, itinerary of the trip, parties involved, background of the organisation of the journey, and correspondence.

MS 5355/3/6

Correspondence, 1999

Form letters regarding Utopia/Yogyakarta Batik Project and batik workshop to be held at Alice Springs by artists from Yogyakarta.

MS 5355/3/7

Funding Petition, 1978

MS 5355: Papers of Jenny Green

Written by Dr Green and sent to Federal and Northern Territory Governments to petition additional funding for continued adult education at Utopia.

MS 5355/3/8 Utopia Women's Batik Group poster, n.d., 490mm x 360mm

Box List

| Series | Folder / Item | Box |
|--------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 1-4 | 1 |
| 2 | 1-3 | 1 |
| 3 | 1-7 | 1 |
| 3 | 8 | Manuscript Plan Cabinet |

Finding aid compiled by Grace Turner, July 2023.

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