

Iluwanti Ken

Walawuru ngunytju kukaku ananyi *(Mother eagles going hunting)*

15 June – 10 July 2021

Jan Murphy Gallery is excited to present our first exhibition of Pitjantjatjara artist, Iluwanti Ken. Iluwanti lives in Amata, and creates her extraordinary works at Tjala Arts, in the APY lands in South Australia. In 2020, Iluwanti won the 37th Telstra NATSIAA Works on Paper Award, and we are thrilled that this work is the centrepiece of her solo exhibition at the gallery.

“I paint the stories of my father’s country – Walawuru Tjukurpa – the story of the eagles. This is my tjukurpa and all of my children’s tjukurpa too.”

Iluwanti is well known for her large scale ink drawings which feature graphic depictions of mother eagles hunting. These highly detailed drawings are created using *punu* sticks and express her *tjukurpa* (Anangu cultural heritage, encompassing past, present and future). She says that birds like the *walawuru* (eagles) and *patupiri* (swallows) have lessons for Anangu women about how to care for one's children. These birds build strong *wiltjas* (shelters) for their family, they hunt for food and protect their young from dangers.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Iluwanti has been a finalist in several national art prizes, most recently the 2021 Dobell Drawing Prize at NAS Sydney and the 2020 National Works on Paper Prize at Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery. Several of her works were featured in Tarnanthi 2020: Open Hands, at the Art Gallery of South Australia. In addition to her art practice, Iluwanti sits on the board of directors for both Tjala Arts and the APY Art Centre Collective.

Her work is held in numerous public collections including the Art Gallery of South Australia, National Gallery of Victoria, QAGOMA, Artbank and the Singapore Art Museum.