

ARTHOUSEGALLERY

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Margaret Baragurra is a Yulparija woman who hails from the Great Sandy Desert of WA. Born at Kalpirti some seventy years ago, Margaret paints her birth place and surrounding country.

With an aerial perspective in her signature vibrant palette, Margaret charts the physical and metaphysical planes of her country, a sophisticated cartography of memory. Margaret's country is kept alive in canvas and paint since she walked out forty years ago.

In the physical realm she records the subterranean water channels beneath the desert, overlaying the food, which flourishes on its surface and documents the ancient walking tracks used by her people for twenty thousand years.

She infuses each mark with the songs of her ancestors and stories of the fluid time of creation. This gives the work a rhythm that dances across the canvas. Margaret's iconic marks change according to which story she is painting. This is where the metaphysical becomes embodied in the work.

In 2006 Margaret and her family travelled from their coastal home of Bidyadanga back to traditional country to visit Winpa, a very significant rain making gathering site that belongs to the Yulparija, Mangala, Jawiliny, Ngarmarta, Walmajarri and Manilyjarra people. This was the first time they had returned since walking out in the late 1960-early 1970s. As documented in the movie Desert Heart, it was a pilgrimage of incredible significance.

Since the trip back to country Margaret's paintings have become more densely rendered abundant with ngatarn (flowers), various kinds of mayi (bushfoods) tali (sandhills), warla (mudflats) and jila (water holes).

Over her almost decade long painting career Margaret has enjoyed critical acclaim and exhibited widely nationally and internationally. Her works are held in a number of public and private collections across the country and she has been invited to exhibit in Paris next year.