

Artist: Maureen Hudson Nampijina  
Region: Yuelamu Mt. Allan  
Title: My Country  
Language: Warlpiri  
Medium: Acrylic on Canvas  
Size: 25" x 71"



Maureen was born in 1952 in the bush at Mt Allan cattle station near Yuendumu. She went to school at Yuendumu settlement in the sixties and later returned to Mt Allan and worked as a teachers assistant for three years.

Maureen is an accomplished artist and has been painting as a career since 1981, and is fully aware of the history and background of the art, both in its traditional form and the modern acrylic movement.

Maureen has four children who are now grown, Michael, Jillian, Gwenda and Anderson. Jillian is showing great promise as an artist in her own right.

Maureen is an accomplished artist and has been painting as a career since 1981, and is fully aware of the history and the background of the art, both in its traditional context and the modern acrylic movement. Her paintings or Dreamings originate from Warlukalangu, her father's and grandfather's country and involve Emu and Fire from her father's side and Women's Ceremony from her mother's side. Maureen's first love is painting which she refers to as culture art.

In 1990 she traveled to Vanuatu for the Art Dock show, the first international art exhibition to be held in Vanuatu. She has since moved to Alice Springs where she paints regularly for local and interstate galleries.

Maureen paints in a strong and innovative style, and is equally at ease working with other artists on collaborative pieces. Her joint piece 'Seven Sisters Dreaming' with Alice Springs artist Maggie Urban was exhibited and toured with the 'Commitments' exhibition in 1993 through the Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane.

She was artist-in-residence at the Mulgara Gallery, Yulara (Ayers Rock, NT) in January 1994, and has also exhibited At the Desert Art Gallery Melbourne, and Sydney.

Maureen's designs have recently been created in a range of carpets, which depict her strong sense of colour choice and meticulous design work.

Maureen's works hang in many national and international collections, and her works are sought after by art collectors from around the world.

Aboriginal paintings are based on myths of the Dreamtime. In modern dot representation, the sacred aspect of the painting is not always revealed, but the meaning remains, transmitted through symbols which are easily understood.

Each person has particular Dreaming to which they belong and they have special ceremonial dances and songs that combine together to form a unique religion that makes up the lives of the Aboriginal people. All things related to the land and thus the land is of great importance to them. The land is the keeper of the Dreaming and must be kept safe for all time so that the Dreaming stories, which are told in the paintings, can be preserved.

Ceremonies always involve song, dance and body decoration, The ownership, management and performance is dependent upon knowledge and status.

While many ceremonies are open or public, many are secret to varying degrees. The categories of people who can be present are restricted; groups such as women, girls and uninitiated men and strangers would all have limitations placed on them in relation to men's ceremonies; men, boys and uninitiated girls would have similar restrictions placed on them in relation to women's ceremonies