

HERMANNSBURG POTTERS



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The Hermannsburg Potters are a dedicated group of Western Arrarnta artists creating vibrant handmade ceramic pots that encompass collective and individually lived histories in their distinct Country. Featuring Abel Pareroultja, Alizha Panangka Coulthard, Anita Mbitjana Ratara, Andrea Pungkarta Rontji, Beth Mbitjana Inkamala, Claire Pareroultja, Dalissa Brown, Dawn Ngala Wheeler, Donna Purrua McNamara, Hayley Panangka Coulthard, Judith Pungarta Inkamala, Michelle Pareroultja, Shirley Wheeler; these artists continue a thirty year legacy sculpting and painting their visual histories and everyday life at Hermannsburg. Highly acclaimed and regarded, these artists work meticulously to bring their history to life in ceramic form.

This exhibition includes sculptures for which the Hermannsburg potters have located, extracted, and processed clay from their traditional lands on Western Aranda Country to create ceramic work. The bringing of clay from Western Aranda lands to Sydney, is itself a deeply symbolic gesture, transporting 'Country' and all that is embedded within it – culture, custom, identity, memory, understanding – to be generously shared in a new context.

These sculptures have travelled far and wide to be shown with us, with the works shown in India as part of the Indian Ceramics Triennale. Arriving with this impressive provenance, they are important pieces in this exhibition. In Western Aranda culture, the concept of 'Country' refers not just to nations, or the physical landscape, but also to the living one – the plants, animals, people and the ways in which they interrelate. It is a place of belonging and a way of being. The term contains complex ideas about law, custom, language, spiritual belief, cultural practice, family and identity.



JUDITH PUNGARTA INKAMALA

Ration Days

terracotta and underglazes

27.5 x 22 x 22 cm

\$5,000



JUDITH PUNGARTA INKAMALA

Ration Days (detail)

terracotta and underglazes

27.5 x 22 x 22 cm

\$5,000



JUDITH PUNGARTA INKAMALA

Kwatja (water), Other side from Good Camp

terracotta and underglazes

19.5 x 14.5 x 14 cm

\$1,900



That's yinga (me) and my cousin Jeanie Pareroutja.

And my family, they come fishing too.

That kwatja (water) its other side from Good Camp, Namatjira Camp.

Kwatja kuka mapa walhama (all the little ones swimming).

We always go out Saturday and Sunday for swimming.



JUDITH PUNGARTA INKAMALA

Baby with Mother

terracotta and underglazes

46.5 x 38 x 38 cm

\$9,500



JUDITH PUNGARTA INKAMALA

Baby with Mother (detail)

terracotta and underglazes

46.5 x 38 x 38 cm

\$9,500



Awa (yes), newborn baby with mother.

Yinga katjia kurrka (I am a new born baby).

In the morning I was born, before sunrise.

That's why everybody come in the morning.

They bring clothes for me, all the house workers, the cleaning people.

Two house workers been bring 'em for me, baby clothes, napkin, blanket.

My Grandmother is there sitting,

and other family there – my Mum's cousin and sister.

ANITA MBITJANA RATARA

Lyertjina (budgerigar)

terracotta and underglazes

20 x 14.5 x 14.5 cm

\$790



Lyertjina urlpara kwaarnala nama. Budgerigars nest in hollow trees.



DALISSA BROWN

Red Sand Hill Outstation

terracotta and underglazes

21.5 x 11.5 x 12 cm

\$700



This is where me and my family stay in the dark blue house.

The yellow house is my partner's aunty's house.

Each house belongs to a different family member.



DAWN NGALA WHEELER

Taking the kids swimming
terracotta and underglazes

19.5 x 11 x 11 cm

\$700



*We taking the kids for swimming after it rains.
We see arra (kangaroo), ilia (emu) and elintja (galah) on the way.*



DONNA PURRULA MCNAMARA

Urrpara (magpie)

terracotta and underglazes

14.5 x 12 x 12 cm

\$680



Thepa urrpara ingutnhala inthurra lyilhama.
Magpies start to sing very early in the morning.



DAWN NGALA WHEELER

My father going with camel

terracotta and underglazes

30.5 x 15.5 x 15 cm

\$1,900



*This one Outstation.
My Father's going with camel.
Lilla Station, Outstation, Kings Canyon Lilla Outstation.
My Father's Country.
And we are going with car, blue Toyota.
Down there, with my father, Lilla Station.*



MICHELLE PAREROULTJA

Marna Mapa, bush tucker
terracotta and underglazes
24.5 x 15 x 14 cm
\$790

*We got bush tucker here, langua (bush bananas), rraatninga (bush passionfruit),
ngaraaka (bush bean) & tjurrka (yellow, red, orange bush fig that grows on the rocks).
Thepa (bird) looking for bush tucker.*



CLAIRE PAREROULTJA

At Rrutna, We Used to Eat Bush Tucker

terracotta and underglazes

30 x 30.5 x 29.5 cm

\$2,600



This is at Rrutna.

I made it, our Outstation.

I used to stay at Rrutna, you know, I been grow up there.

Before, everybody used to go back to Outstations.

In the '70s we didn't stay in Hermannsburg, we went out bush.

My Mum used to go there for ngkurlpa (bush tobacco) - not me I didn't know it yet, I was still young, 14 or 15.

We used go for fishing and hunting when we got nothing to eat.

My mum and dad used to go for rabbit.

We been grow up eating rabbit all the time.

When we got no marna (food), no feed, no nothing we used to go for fishing.

Even we used to eat these little green birds, lyerrtjina (budgies), get some from down the creek.

We used to eat those elintja (galahs) too.





ANDREA PUNGKARTA RONTJI

Tjonpa (Perentie)

Ntaria clay, terracotta and underglazes

23 x 19 x 19 cm

\$3,800



Exhibited at the Indian Ceramics Triennale, New Delhi (19 Jan – 31 March 2024)
Nhanha Arna-Urrknga Nurnaka Pmara-rinya rinya (This Clay Belongs to Our Country)

In our Country there's wildflowers and bush tuckers, they come out after big rain.

Tjonpa is bush tucker and is for Aboriginal people to eat.

We eat Tjonpa.

People look for them to hunt them and show them the kids that old people hunt the bush tuckers, so they can carry on.



ALIZHA PANANGKA COULTHARD

Kakalhalha (Major Mitchell's Pink Cockatoo)

Ntaria clay, terracotta and underglazes

12 x 9 x 9 cm

\$850



Exhibited at the Indian Ceramics Triennale, New Delhi (19 Jan – 31 March 2024)

Nhanha Arna-Urrknga Nurnaka Pmara-rinya rinya (This Clay Belongs to Our Country)

Kakalhalka out in the bush.

Where we go for a drive we see Kakalhalka sitting in the tree branch and listen to them talk.

This is near Tent Hill because the rocks are really red there.



ANITA MBITJANA RATARA & ALIZHA PANANGKA COULTHARD

Desert Flowers Collab (Rraatninga),
Ntaria clay, terracotta and underglazes

12 x 7 x 7 cm

\$850

Exhibited at the Indian Ceramics Triennale, New Delhi (19 Jan – 31 March 2024)
Nhanha Arna-Urrknga Nurnaka Pmara-rinya rinya (This Clay Belongs to Our Country)

This pot is a collaboration between two artists, mother Anita Ratara and her daughter Alizha Coulthard.

Anita says about the story of the pot

That's for the flower in the bush. Bush I been see him, in the bush. Awe (yes)



CLAIRE PAREROULTJA

Elintja kuka (small galah)

Ntaria clay, terracotta and underglazes

6 x 4 x 4 cm

\$350



Exhibited at the Indian Ceramics Triennale, New Delhi (19 Jan – 31 March 2024)
Nhanha Arna-Urrknga Nurnaka Pmara-rinya rinya (This Clay Belongs to Our Country)

I made this, we used to eat galah.

Elintja (galah), urlpaatja (parrots), lyertjina (budgies) we used to eat.

When we go for swimming or somewhere all the boys always throw stone at all the birds and we cook 'em and eat it.



BETH MBITJANA INKAMALA

Quandong Tiny

Ntaria clay, terracotta and underglazes

4 x 3 x 3 cm

\$250



Exhibited at the Indian Ceramics Triennale, New Delhi (19 Jan – 31 March 2024)

Nhanha Arna-Urrknga Nurnaka Pmara-rinya rinya (This Clay Belongs to Our Country)

When family goes out for a bush trip the kids sit in the back of the car and lookout for what we can find.

Sometimes kids find quandong.

It's a big green tree with bright red seed.

They collect it and then they eat it all, or maybe make jam or something.

And mum or aunty or sister, they make necklace of the seed, to wear it on their hand or ears.



HAYLEY PANANGKA COULTHARD

Bush Foods

Ntaria clay, terracotta and underglazes

33 x 20 x 20 cm

\$5,500



Exhibited at the Indian Ceramics Triennale, New Delhi (19 Jan – 31 March 2024)
Nhanha Arna-Urrknga Nurnaka Pmara-rinya rinya (This Clay Belongs to Our Country)

The little bird is titjaritjirra in my language, willie wagtail in English.

They always eat bush tucker, all the birds.

West of Hermannsburg, we drive to bush about 15 minutes looking for bushtucker in the troopy (Toyota car) with the school kids.

We going looking for Katjara (raisin).

We get off from troopy and get out walking, looking for bushtucker but that little titjaritjirra wants the katjara too!

We have to wave a stick and stop them from being cheeky so we can share the marna (food).



ALIZHA PANANGKA COULTHARD

Lyerrtjina (budgerigar)

Ntaria clay, terracotta and underglazes

13 x 8 x 8 cm

\$780

Exhibited at the Indian Ceramics Triennale, New Delhi (19 Jan – 31 March 2024)
Nhanha Arna-Urrknga Nurnaka Pmara-rinya rinya (This Clay Belongs to Our Country)

*I saw lyerrtjina (budgies) sitting in a tree near the waterhole at Rrutna (Outstation).
Rrutna is good swimming spot.*



DAWN NGALA WHEELER

Kakalhalha (Major Mitchell's Pink Cockatoo)

Ntaria clay, terracotta and underglazes

11 x 5 x 5 cm

\$780



Exhibited at the Indian Ceramics Triennale, New Delhi (19 Jan – 31 March 2024)

Nhanha Arna-Urrknga Nurnaka Pmara-rinya rinya (This Clay Belongs to Our Country)

I see this one flying, sometimes I see them drinking water.

Sometimes I just see one bird.





SHIRLEY WHEELER

Nturrurta (Spinifex Pigeon)

Ntaria clay, terracotta and underglazes

14 x 8 x 8 cm

\$850

Exhibited at the Indian Ceramics Triennale, New Delhi (19 Jan – 31 March 2024)

Nhanha Arna-Urrknga Nurnaka Pmara-rinya rinya (This Clay Belongs to Our Country)

Somewhere on outstation, at Kelper Spring, down the creek at the waterhole, other side from the camp we see Nturrurta.

Thepa nturrurta kakara untharlaapuma, arnala.

Spinifex pigeons run around busily on the ground.



CLAIRE PAREROULTJA

Puppy dog and Arrara

Ntaria clay, terracotta and underglazes

13 x 8 x 8 cm

\$780



Exhibited at the Indian Ceramics Triennale, New Delhi (19 Jan – 31 March 2024)

Nhanha Arna-Urrknga Nurnaka Pmara-rinya rinya (This Clay Belongs to Our Country)

Scabies little dog, that's dreaming there at Arrara coming this way towards Rrunta (Outstation).

Them stone laying down near waterhole at Rrutna and Arrara that's the scabies dogs dreaming.

My father been make bore at Rruta but kids start to scratch when they drink it that kwatja (water) and sore come out.

That's why we stop that bore.



DONNA PURRULA MCNAMARA

Elintja (galah)

Ntaria clay, terracotta and underglazes

13 x 7 x 7 cm

\$780

Exhibited at the Indian Ceramics Triennale, New Delhi (19 Jan – 31 March 2024)

Nhanha Arna-Urrknga Nurnaka Pmara-rinya rinya (This Clay Belongs to Our Country)

This is the story about my Country.

We have local birds, one of them is galah, in our language we call it Elintja.

They love eating seeds and hang around near the waterholes.

I am happy my little bird is in India right now for you to see my Country.



ABEL PAREROULTJA

Standley Chasm

Ntaria clay, terracotta and underglazes

14 x 9 x 9 cm

\$850

Exhibited at the Indian Ceramics Triennale, New Delhi (19 Jan – 31 March 2024)
Nhanha Arna-Urrknga Nurnaka Pmara-rinya rinya (This Clay Belongs to Our Country)

That one is there for Betty, me and her son when we went to see Standley Chasm.

When my son saw that one first time.

My sister was stay with us.

She walk all the way, Standley Chasm.





ABEL PAREROULTJA

Born 1983. Lives and works in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. *Western Arrarnta*.

ALIZHA PANANGKA COULTHARD

Born 1982. Lives and works in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. *Western Arrarnta*.

ANITA MBITJANA RATARA

Born 1943 in the alukura (women's camp) near Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. Lives and works in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. *Western Arrarnta*.

ANDREA PUNGKARTA RONTJI

Born 1980 in Mparntwe (Alice Springs), Australia. Lives and works in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. *Western Aranda*.

BETH MBITJANA INKAMALA

Born 1977 in Mparntwe (Alice Springs), Australia. Lives and works in Ntaria (Hermannsburg). *Western Arrernte*.

CLAIRE PAREROULTJA

Born in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. Lives and works in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. *Aranda*.

DALISSA BROWN

Born 1997 in Mparntwe (Alice Springs), Australia. Lives and works in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia.

DAWN NGALA WHEELER

Born 1953 in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. Lives and works in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. *Western Arrarnta*.

DONNA PURRULA MCNAMARA

Born 1980 between Ntaria (Hermannsburg) and Mparntwe (Alice Springs). Lives and works in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. *Western Aranda*.

HAYLEY PANANGKA COULTHARD

Born 1967. Lives and works in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. *Western Arrarnta*.

JUDITH PUNGARTA INKAMALA

Born 1947 in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. Lives and works in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. *Western Arrarnta*.

MICHELLE PAREROULTJA

Born 1967 in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. Lives and works in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. *Western Aranda*.

SHIRLEY WHEELER

Born 1971 in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. Lives and works in Ntaria (Hermannsburg), Australia. *Western Aranda*.



Photography by Bec Capp



Photograph by Dimity Cole

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