

Sally Scales.

b. 1989, Pipalyatjara/ Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands, South Australia
Pitjantjatjara woman
Lives and works in Adelaide, South Australia

'We grew up knowing we had to use our voices for our families and communities. It's go time.'

A proud Pitjantjatjara woman from far west of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in remote South Australia, Sally Scales creates vibrant landscapes that represent her ancestral home and tjukurpa. Her unique aesthetic combines elements of the artistic styles of her two grandmothers, Kuntjiriya Mick and Kunmanara (Wawiriya) Burton, and her mother, Josephine Mick.



In addition to her studio practice, Sally plays an active leadership role in the Uluru Dialogue for the First Nations Voice to Parliament, is a board member of the Australian Children's Television Foundation, and a member of the National Gallery of Australia Council and Chair of its First Nations Advisory Group.

A regular finalist in major art prizes, Sally won the People's Choice Award at the 2021 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA) at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, and the Roberts Family Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in 2022. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) named Sally as one of the 100 women of the year in 2022.

On top of all of these commitments, Sally is foster mum to Walter.

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AWARDS, GRANTS, RESIDENCIES

2023 Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales (finalist)
2022 Roberts Family Prize, Art Gallery New South Wales (winner)
Wynne Prize, Art Gallery of New South Wales (finalist)
Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (finalist)
2021 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (finalist)

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 Atunmananyi munu Kanyini - Holding and Protecting Country, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
2024 Ngayuku Manta Ngayuku Wangka, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
2023 Aralya – Nyuna, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
2022 APY Gallery Sydney Ngayuku Tjukurpa: My Law & Culture, My Country, My Story
2021 APY Gallery, Adelaide Irititja, Kuwaritja, Ngali (Old, new, us)

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 Melbourne Art Fair, N.Smith Gallery booth, Sydney
Solo, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
Summer '25, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
2024 Sydney Contemporary, N.Smith Gallery Paper & Galleries booth, Sydney
New South: Recent painting from Southern Australia, Hazelhurst Gallery
N.Smith Gallery Melbourne Art Fair
Sunrise, Sunset, N.Smith Gallery, Sydney
2023 APY Gallery Sydney Minyma Wilurarra (Ladies From Out West)
N.Smith Gallery Sydney Contemporary
2022 APY Gallery Melbourne Art Fair

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Grazia Magazine, 'The Artists Way', Ava Gilchrist, 1 September 2024.
Art Guide, 'Sally Scales on the links between painting, life, and family', Giselle Au-Nhien Nguyen, 31 January 2023.
BBC, '100 Women 2022: Who is on the list this year?', BBC World, 6 December 2022.