

## Clifford POSSUM TJAPALTJARRI AO

<b>Born</b>	c.1932 - 2002
<b>Language</b>	Anmatyerre, Arrernte
<b>Location</b>	Napperby, Mount Allan - Yuelumu
<b>Community</b>	Papunya, Alice Springs
<b>Country</b>	Karinyarra- Mount Wedge, Tjuirri- Napperby Station, Mount Allan
<b>Art Centre</b>	Papunya Tula Artists
<b>Region</b>	Western Desert, Northern Territory
<b>Dreamings</b>	Possum, Fire, Kangaroo, Fish, Snake, Man's Love Story, Goanna, Water, Mala, Lightning

Clifford was born on Napperby Station. From the 1940s he carved and decorated weapons such as boomerangs and bullroarers with landscape scenes for sale to tourists. Clifford and his brother Tim Leura, also a famous artist were moved to a new settlement at Papunya, which had been established in 1959 because of the British atomic bomb tests in the Western Desert from 1955 to 1963.

Clifford and Tim Leura became members of the first group of artists to join Geoffrey Bardon's painting group and the newly formed Papunya Tula Artists company. Clifford later became the Chairman of Papunya Tula Artists. A very quiet private man, he was generous in his gifts to his extended family. Clifford is survived by his artist children, Gabriella, Michelle and Lionel.

### Collections

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT, Australia  
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC, Australia  
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW, Australia  
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA, Australia  
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, WA, Australia  
Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD, Australia  
Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra, ACT, Australia  
South Australian Museum, Adelaide, SA, Australia  
Flinders University Art Museum, Adelaide, SA, Australia  
Berndt Museum of Anthropology, University of Western Australia, Perth, WA, Australia  
Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery, Broken Hill, NSW, Australia  
Artbank, Sydney, NSW, Australia  
Federal Airports Corporation, Alice Springs Airport, Alice Springs, NT, Australia  
The Holmes à Court Collection, Perth, WA, Australia  
Pacific Asia Museum, Los Angeles, USA  
Donald Kahn Collection, Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, USA  
The Kelton Foundation, Santa Monica, CA, USA

### Publications

Vivien Johnson, *The Art of Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri*, 1994

### Achievements

1970s-1980s Chairman, Papunya Tula Artists Company, NT

**Commissions**

- 1985 Mural Design, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs, NT
- 1991 Mural - Strehlow Research Foundation, Alice Springs, NT
- 1991 Mural - Painting, Passenger Lounge, new Alice Springs Airport, Alice Springs, NT

**Awards, Prizes**

- 1983 The Alice Prize, Alice Springs, NT
- 2002 Order of Australia -AO

**Ranking - Most Important Aboriginal Artists (both living and deceased)**

- 2011 **Ranked 4/100**