

## New York

I was walking around in New York a lot, the buildings are so, so big and there are people everywhere! That was my first time in a really big city like that, I couldn't believe it! I went on the boat to see the Statue of Liberty, that kungka [woman] is really big, and beautiful – I've even painted her picture, a lovely picture of that big kungka boss of New York! One day in New York, I went down into the subway riding on the trains. One day I thought we were going to another underground train, but it was actually an underground bowling alley! I was really happy doing the bowling – eating the good food in the diner and bowling. New York is really fun! Everyone should also know about the really good second-hand shopping in New York, there are so many good clothes, I was filling up my suitcase, it was getting too big to go on the plane – hehe. I was eating really good food in New York, very good pizza and lots of very good Chinese too, mmm tasty duck! I like to make paintings about my travel to New York, I like to paint the aeroplane with my name on it, I wonder where Kaylene will be going next? Might be Nashville to see Dolly!



ABOVE Kaylene in New York City

OPPOSITE *Party Time Today*, 2021, acrylic on linen, 122 x 152 cm (detail)







## AYERS ROCK at SUNSET

This would be one of the most spectacular sights in the world. At sunset this amazing monolith takes on an iridescent terra cotta glow. As the sun sets the intensity of the red glow increases until the shadows reach the top of the rock. Then the light fades and the glory passes. Due to the clarity of the atmosphere, the moon can sometimes be clearly seen in the daylight.









program, alongside Tjukurpa, the traditional cultural canon of Anangu people.<sup>6</sup> Her repertoire is one of gentle resistance in the face of some of the harsh realities of living in a remote community. Earlier paintings counsel against the dangers of petrol sniffing and alcohol, whereby Whiskey warns 'don't drink / woma wiya', 'Abba don't drink' in *Abba Don't Drink – Woma Wiya* (2016) (page 79). In *Sniffing Time* (2015) (page 78) she warns 'petrol sniffing kills', 'keep out!' These slogans in muted colours encourage everyone to 'come home' as an alternative to 'Cham pagne PAIN' (as seen in *Woma Wiya*, 2015, page 78).

Instead, Whiskey chooses to seek strength in her community and making art. Whiskey also deploys playful humour to combat these challenges by promoting moderation and invoking 'Dolly Pardon' as a clever word play on forgiveness and acceptance or in *Coober Party* (2019) (pages 42–43), proudly welcoming her guests to Coober Pedy in the northern outback of South Australia.

## Working 9–5

'Me and my sistas working at arts and crafts,' declares Dolly Parton, announcing the strong and dedicated work ethic at Iwantja Arts Centre at Indulkana, in APY Lands. Whiskey and her friends and fellow artists such as Betty Muffler, Rene Sundown, Marinka Burton and Vicki Yatjiki Cullinan have a daily, committed painting practice.

In September 2022 and October 2023, I had the opportunity to visit Iwantja Arts Centre during a time of immense excitement as the local football team, the Tigers, was in the grand final. Some of the ladies prepared tjala [honey ants] and offered delectable treats. Vincent Namatjira welcomed us on our arrival at the community of around 250 people, and Eric Barney was busily preparing a lunch of malu wipu [kangaroo tail] traditionally cooked outdoors on hot coals.

Iwantja Arts is a studio with up to thirty artists working side by side each day in a supportive environment of eating, drinking tea, laughing and, of course, painting. The atmosphere is one of hospitality and jubilation, with song and jokes, fun and flies, damper and dancing.

For three days Whiskey methodically painted images on pages from vintage Central Australia photo books, including *Christmas at the Devil's Marbles* (2022) (opposite) where the landscape is adorned with presents for the seven sisters and a decorated Christmas tree. At one point, Whiskey started talking about David Bowie and proceeded to paint him onto the desert landscape, marking fine dots and brushstrokes, precise and jubilant.

A decommissioned road sign, once pointing tourists to Iwantja Arts, is used as a visual repository by Whiskey in her painting *Working 9 to 5* (2022) (pages 82–84). The title is emblazoned across the central axis of the sign with seven female characters showing up at the arts centre with an analogue clock in peachy pink announcing that it's 9 o'clock, time to commence work. Radiant and exuberant, Whiskey often renders herself in yellow and black, the colours of Iwantja Tigers football team, greeting visitors to Iwantja Arts with mingkulpa vines wrapped around her arms.

### OPPOSITE, TOP TO BOTTOM

*Christmas at the Devil's Marbles*, 2022, acrylic on found book page, 14.6 x 22.2 cm

*Cher and Cher's Sister*, 2019, acrylic on offset print, 27.5 x 41.5 cm