

Job Package

STUDIO MANAGER

Mimili Maku Arts



Mimili Maku





About the organisation

Mimili Maku Arts is a vibrant contemporary art studio and cultural institution owned and governed by a strong board of Anangu directors. The art centre is located in Mimili Community on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in the far northwest of South Australia.

Mimili Maku Arts members have access to a high functioning contemporary art studio. The art centre supports artists across painting, photography, publishing, new-media and sculpture. Mimili artists are renowned for experimental, culturally potent and distinctive artforms, creating work for the national and international contemporary art market. They have been recognised in major art prizes, and their work has been acquired and commissioned by institutions and international art collectors.

The commitment to on-country making is embedded in Mimili Maku Arts programming. This includes annual bush camps and a long running cycle of programs, residencies and on-country workshops working to reimagine art making in relation to country, language and culture. Storytelling, mark making, song and dance are at the core of Anangu way of being and this has allowed culture to remain resilient, adaptive and strong over tens of thousands of years. By committing to unrestricted creative boundaries, Mimili Maku Arts endeavors to support this on-going process of cultural leadership.

Ngapartji-Ngapartji (working side by side)

Through ongoing professional development both in-house and external, the art centre supports Anangu leadership and employment across all levels of the operation. As the only permanent, Anangu-run organisation in community, the art centre also acts as a place for the Elders to connect with other stakeholders and government, amplifying Anangu voices within the arts and media. Mimili Maku Arts, its board and membership have worked hard to develop safe, sustainable, and culturally led ways of employment. Mimili Maku Arts is committed to making remote art centre job pathways, relationships and conversations safe, inviting and connected for everyone involved.

Commitment to truth telling

Mimili Maku Arts is proud to have a tradition of telling hard truths and using artmaking as a way of resisting colonial narratives created to harm First Nations people, country and culture.

Alpiri Kuwari (Addressing the now)

Mimili Maku Arts launched Alpiri Kuwari (Addressing the now) in 2022 and saw the development of an on-country cultural collection. In 2025 Mimili Maku Arts is excited to be building a keeping place to house this collection and develop a program that allows the ongoing purchase of significant works into the future.



About the position

Mimili Maku Arts is a professional art studio and cultural institution, home to some of Australia's most potent and celebrated artists and leaders. This position is a unique opportunity for an arts professional looking to apply their skillset and work for a group of passionate artists and community leaders.

The studio manager will work alongside the art centre manager and member artists in the running of a professional art studio in a remote environment. The studio manager is responsible for daily operations of the studio and coordination of a team of studio support staff and arts workers.

The studio manager must have experience coordinating and managing staff as they will oversee all back of house operations, art production and staff rostering. Mimili Maku Arts has 15–20 member artists, a roster of project based studio assistants and around 8 local artswokers all of whom will be under the direct management of the Studio Manager.

This role requires a developed sense of aesthetics and experience in arts development, and a highly motivated approach to working as part of a cross-cultural team.

Commitment to social, cultural and artistic development, and the ability to work towards large outcomes and timelines in these areas is also essential. Respect and understanding of cross-cultural environments and knowledge of contemporary Aboriginal art will be required to successfully operate in this position.

Future development opportunities

This is a senior operations role that works closely with the Art Centre Manager. For suitable candidates, there may be opportunities over time to take on broader responsibility subject to performance, organisational fit, and community/board approval. Any expansion of scope would be supported through mentoring, professional development, and formal reviews.

This does not represent a guaranteed progression pathway and does not replace the requirement for open recruitment to senior roles.

Reporting Relationships

Reports to:

- Art Centre Manager

Direct reports include:

- Studio Assistant
- Arts Workers (part-time and casual)



Duties

The role of the studio manager is to coordinate the running and operations of the art centre studio.

The role includes

- staff management
- artist support
- project management
- creative direction

Artistic and professional development

- coordinate the daily operations of an art studio
- manage and maintain art supplies for use by members of the art centre
- facilitate the production of major artworks
- oversee technical support for fabrication of artwork (ie. screen-printing, photography, sculpture – depending on skillset)
- organise packing and freight of artworks
- organise and support professional development opportunities for artists and workers
- manage current team of Anangu art workers
- train and mentor new Anangu art workers

Strategic, Operational and Governance

- adhere to the projects and programs of the art centre as outlined in the organisation's business and strategic plan and in accordance with applicable funding requirements and guidelines
- recognise and respect existing traditional lore and leadership frameworks as they impact on the governance of the art centre
- maintain a cooperative, flexible and harmonious relationship with art centre members, the community, its council and other local organisations, as well as with external organisations and stakeholders
- respect and encourage maintenance of Indigenous language (Pitjantjatjara)
- protect and respect Indigenous cultural rights and observe any applicable protocol



Selection Criteria

Essential

- Tertiary qualifications and work experience in Visual Arts or related industry
- Ability to critically assess art; recognise and nurture artistic talent
- Ability to live and work in a remote cross-cultural environment and the desire to navigate the challenges that arise in a culturally sensitive manner
- Proven written and oral communications skills as well as proficient IT skills and basic Photoshop and Illustrator knowledge
- A current driver's license, capability in remote area travel (manual 4WD), ability to travel for extended periods
- Experience in small workforce management
- An understanding of the importance of the maintenance of Indigenous languages and traditions
- Arts marketing skills; highly developed aesthetic sense and experience in sales, marketing and exhibition coordination

Desirable

- Demonstrable understanding of the Australian and international art markets as they apply to the Aboriginal art industry as well as an understanding of contemporary arts practice and the broader visual arts industry
- Previous experience in Indigenous art centre work
- Previous experience in an arts institution
- Experience in community development and/or working in an inter-cultural context
- Demonstrated experience with design software such as Adobe Suite (Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign)
- Experience in facilitating studio support for artists



Salary Package

Award: Employment conditions in accordance with Amusement, Events and Recreation Award. A 6-month renewable contract is offered. Salary package starting from \$65,000 base salary plus 12% superannuation and applicable allowances, negotiable depending on experience and suitability.

Hours of work: Standard ordinary hours are 8 hours a day based on 40 hours per week. However, some out of hours work is required.

Annual leave: Annual leave will be six weeks per annum, available on completion of 12 months service.

Time off in Lieu: Where approved by the art centre directors, you may take time off in lieu, up to a maximum of 20 days per year and a maximum of 5 days per quarter. No more than 5 days of time off in lieu may be accrued and taken within each quarter.

Travel assistance: Following 12 months completion of service, \$1,000 is payable as a contribution towards travel costs associated with living in remote Central Australian community.

Location allowance: A re-location allowance is applicable to this position.

Long service leave: Long service leave will be paid in accordance with the Long Service Leave Act 1987.

Superannuation: Mimili Maku Arts makes superannuation contributions 12% as per legislative requirements. These contributions can be paid into your nominated super account.

Accommodation: Subsidised accommodation is provided and will be discussed at interview.

Other benefits: Professional development is encouraged and promoted by providing staff training as necessary.

Conditions specific to Mimili Maku Arts

- Staff must abide by the relevant section/s of the Indigenous Australian Aboriginal Art Code
- Staff must follow the art centre policies regarding vehicle use, housing, social media, and art purchasing. Detailed policies will be provided alongside employment contract upon selection for the role



Successful candidates

Police Clearance: You will be required to provide a National Police Clearance Certificate before commencing employment. Expenses of obtaining this clearance will be your responsibility.

APY Lands Permit: You will be required to obtain an APY Lands Permit. Mimili Maku Arts will support you in this application and cover the expenses incurred.

Probationary Period: A probationary period of three months will need to be completed. A performance review will be held at the end of the probationary period and continuing employment confirmed subject to satisfactory performance. Should you not perform the duties for which you have been employed to the satisfaction of the Mimili Maku Arts Board of Directors, this corporation may at its discretion extend the period for a further three months or terminate this contract of employment by giving you relevant written notice or paying you in lieu of the notice period.

Please email anna@mimilimaku.com for further information.

www.mimilimaku.com