

Wendy Hubert

Yindjibarndi Nyinyart at Wendy's Garden, 2025-2026

mixed media

Courtesy of the artist and Juluwarlu Art Group

Copyright © Wendy Hubert

Commissioned by the Biennale of Sydney with generous support from Regional Arts WA and generous assistance from Copyright Agency's Cultural Fund.

Education Resource (K-6)



Palm on the country, 2025,

Photograph: courtesy of the artist and Julwarlu.

Overview



biennale of sydney

This special garden artwork is by Wendy Hubert, a Yindjibarndi Elder and artist from Roebourne in Western Australia. Wendy has been taking care of her Country and community for over 40 years, and she knows many stories about the plants that grow on her land.

For the Biennale, Wendy made a big garden installation filled with native Australian plants. These aren't just any plants, they are special plants that First Nations peoples have used for thousands of years for food, medicine, and ceremonies. Some of these plants don't grow in Wendy's Country anymore because the land has changed, but Wendy still remembers them and knows their stories. By planting this garden, she is bringing them back so we can see them, learn about them, and understand how important they are.

Look closely at the different plants. Notice their colours, shapes, and textures. Are the leaves smooth or rough? Are they big or small? What colours do you see? Wendy made this garden to teach us about caring for Country. She wants us to appreciate the land and all the living things on it, and to understand that we need to look after them so they can be here forever.



Wendy Hubert
Photograph: Claire Martin.
Courtesy of the artist and Juluwarlu.



biennale of sydney

Discussion Questions

Wendy's garden installation brings together native plants that are used for food, medicine, and ceremony, creating a space for learning and yarning.

- **Observe** three **different** plants in Wendy's garden.
- **Describe** the **textures** you see —smooth, rough, fuzzy, shiny.
- What **colours** do you **notice** in the leaves, stems, and earth?

Some plants in this garden no longer grow on Yindjibarndi Country because of mining and land changes, but Wendy still holds the knowledge about them.

- Why is it **important** to **remember** plants even when they're gone?
- Why do you think Wendy chose **living plants** instead of painting a picture?
- How is **learning** in a garden **different** from learning in a classroom?

Practical Activities

Activity 1

Choose 1 plant from Wendy's garden to observe closely. Look at its shape, colour, and texture for two minutes.

Using a paper and pen, draw the plant. Include details about what you see. Are the leaves round or pointed? Thick or thin? How many leaves do you see?

Write three words next to your drawing that describe the plant. What does this plant need to stay healthy? Write or draw your answer. Do this for 2 more plants you see in Wendy's garden

Activity 2

Choose one plant in the garden. Sit where you can see it clearly. Watch the plant for 3 minutes. Notice how it moves, what's near it, what light hits it.



biennale of sydney

On your paper, write the heading "This Plant's Story" and draw the plant.
Answer these questions in full sentences:

Where do you think this plant grows? (In sun? In shade? Near other plants?)

What do you think this plant need to survive? (Water, soil, light?)

If this plant could talk, what would it say about living in Wendy's garden?

Why do you think Wendy chose to include this plant in her artwork?

Share you plant story with your partner.



Yindjibarndi Straight Line People, 2024

Photograph: courtesy of the artist and Julwarlu.

