

# biennale of sydney

Wendy Hubert

*Yindjibarndi Nyinyart at Wendy's Garden, 2025-2026*

mixed media

Courtesy of the artist and Juluwarlu Art Group

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## Education Resource (K-6)



*Yindjibarndi Nyinyart at Wendy's Garden, 2025-2026;*

mixed media. Installation view in Rememory: 25<sup>th</sup> Biennale of Sydney at Lewers: Penrith Regional Gallery, 2026. Courtesy of the artist and Juluwarlu Art Group. Photography: Maja Baska





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## Overview

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 sand, stones, cultural objects and artworks that have travelled all the way from Yindjibarndi Country in Western Australia. Wendy has included special plants that First Nations peoples have used for thousands of years for food, medicine, and ceremonies. By creating this garden, Wendy is sharing special cultural sites from her home so we can see them, learn about them, and understand how important they are. In her words, "I know my Ngurra (country). I know it's Laws. I am a Yindjibarndi Custodian, old now, but strong in my thinking and my life".

Look closely at the different parts of the garden. Notice their colours, shapes, and textures. Are the stones 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



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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.

## Discussion Questions

Wendy's garden installation brings together materials from the earth like sand, bark and stones with native plants that are used for food, medicine, and ceremony, creating a space for learning and yarning.

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

The different areas in this garden each have a story to tell- these stories are important to the Yindjibarndi people. Wendy has built this garden to share these stories and make sure they are not forgotten.

- Why is it **important** to **remember** stories from our parents or grandparents?
- Why do you think Wendy chose **to build a garden** instead of painting a picture?
- How is **learning** in a garden **different** from learning in a classroom?



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## Practical Activities

### *Activity 1*

Choose 1 small detail in Wendy's garden to observe closely (this might be a sand hill, a collection of stones, or a piece of bark). Look at the shape, colour, and texture for two minutes.

Using a paper and pen, draw the detail. Include details about what you see. What materials do you notice? Are they round or straight? What colours do you see?

Write three words next to your drawing that describe the detail.

### *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.

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 needs 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 your plant story with your partner.



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*Yindjibarndi Straight Line People, 2024*  
Photograph: courtesy of the artist and Julwarlu.



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*Palm on the country, 2025,*  
Photograph: courtesy of the artist and Julwarlu.

