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Newsletter Vol.5 April 2005

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**WELCOME** to the fifth edition of our newsletter, and it's April already! Arthur and I have been very busy with Artitja, and the year - as they all seem to do now - is careering along!

Artitja's been on the road this year as you are about to find out and we're happy to report that the Aboriginal art sector is very healthy and that quality Aboriginal art is still in great demand.



Minnie Pwerle \$4000

**Minnie Pwerle still reigns**

The latest Australian Art Collector magazine has just hit the shelves and it's great to see an article by Susan McCulloch about Minnie Pwerle who in only 5 years and at age 86 "ranks as Australia's highest selling contemporary Aboriginal artist..." (AAC Iss.32 p85)

I am a great fan of Minnie Pwerle's work and have great admiration for the woman as well as the artist – from the 'jillaroo' working on Utopia station as a young girl – to the 86 year old



Minnie Pwerle \$1200

dynamo now, she has an amazing amount of energy and inspiration and still loves to hunt goanna. She'll stop the car and chase a 'perrente' (large lizard) she's seen cross the road and take it home for tucker! What a woman..... a provider in more ways than one – Hail Minnie!!

Personally I was glad to read the article as it comes at a time that there is some criticism around suggesting that Minnie is too prolific, which is not how I see it. Minnie does paint a lot, because she loves painting. Simple. My only advice would be to choose her works wisely, because not all her works are masterpieces – as everyone has bad days – artists or not.....

We currently have some fabulous Minnies in stock – all hand chosen – all

sizes ranging from \$660 to \$4000, some of which are on our website [www.artitja.com.au](http://www.artitja.com.au).

## Art from Yuendumu

In my March visit to Alice Springs, I took the opportunity to visit the art centre at Yuendumu, about 300km north west of Alice Springs, which was yet another fabulous experience, particularly as on that day artists Shorty Jungala Robinson, Judy Watson Napangardi, Paddy Sims and Paddy Stewart were all painting.

*Below: My visit to the Art Centre, Yuendumu last month. That's Judy Watson on the right*



Yuendumu is home to many very well known artists, and the community is known for it Yuendumu Doors project. The art from Yuendumu today is bright and cheerful, using a much bolder colour palette than the Papunya or Utopian artists, and quite distinctive styles. We now stock some smaller works from Yuendumu artists. Here's a few examples:



Liddy Walker 46x30cm  
\$350

Peggy Poulson 122x46cm .  
\$990



## Artitja Features in Habitat

Arthur and I were delighted to see an article which caught us by surprise published in the January 28<sup>th</sup> edition of **Habitat** (West Australian newspaper liftout).

It was entitled *Home is where the art is* and written by Cynthia Eaton, who had come to our home with a photographer to do an article which was to be published last October around our exhibition time. As it hadn't been published we of course assumed it was not going to be, so were surprised to see the article which had great photographs of our small private gallery and even more so by Cynthia finishing off her story with the sentence: *"I ... came away somewhat financially poorer but culturally so much richer for the experience"*.

As Arthur and I both see the importance of passing on the cultural and educational aspects of the art, not just selling it, we thought Cynthia had got it in one. Aren't good news stories a nice change?

## Papunya – A Place Made After the Story

As mentioned in our last newsletter I am still offering the 'bible' on the Papunya art movement written by the late Geoffrey Bardon and his brother James Bardon to Artitja clients for \$100. Normal retail is \$120. I have 3 copies left for anyone interested.

Ph 0418 900 954 or email [anna@artitja.com.au](mailto:anna@artitja.com.au).

## Arttrade Auction

Artitja Fine Art are founding member of Arttrade - the Australian Indigenous Art Traders Association, and I (Anna) have been a Board member for the past 4 years, currently sharing the position of Vice President.

Last year Arttrade held their first fundraising auction in August in Darwin and will be doing so again this year. A

percentage of monies raised will go to the Aboriginal Benefits Foundation (see [www.arttrade.asn.au](http://www.arttrade.asn.au)).

If you have any works you would like to put in the auction, please contact me to discuss.

### **Julie Nungala Commissions**



*Julie Nungala Robinson 91x91cm (SOLD)*

An update on Julie Nungala Robinson – daughter to Dorothy Napangardi - who doesn't need to be labelled as Dorothy's daughter any longer as her own very successful first solo exhibition in Sydney has just ended.

Artitja has been stocking Julie Nungala's work for 2 years now, since we first laid eyes on her beautiful monochrome representations of *Pirlinyanu* – her traditional country.

Having sold an earlier work into the Edith Cowan University art collection, I'm happy to say a second work is about to be added.

We have just had four commissions undertaken by Julie, all of which have sold – and currently have another underway. If you are interested in acquiring one of her works, please contact me for details. I love Julie's work immensely. She is incredibly talented

and no doubt is in my mind, a major rising star.

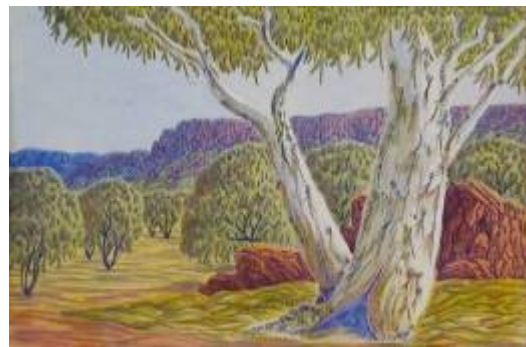
### **Watercolour Landscapes**

One thing that captures my interest more and more each time I visit Alice Springs are the watercolour landscapes.

Although always appreciative of Albert Namatjira's work, I was never a great fan of the landscapes, but now as I look around me while driving through the central desert and seeing the colours and the landscape, I am very taken by this art style. The painting below is by Basil Ranji.

If you are interested in watercolours similar to this, I can source them for you. The sizes and prices vary but roughly something around 40x30cm would be around \$250-300, depending on the artist and the painting.

Please call if you would like to make an enquiry on 0418 900 954 or email [anna@artitja.com.au](mailto:anna@artitja.com.au)



*Artist: Basil Ranji*

### **NPY Womens Council Baskets**

We currently have a new range of baskets from the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council weaving project in stock. There are also some brand new woven sculptures – just gorgeous!



Three bird woven sculpture \$120



Baskets \$88-\$182

Figure 1

## July Exhibition at the Old George Gallery

Hooray! We are back in our favourite gallery in July with our next exhibition in our *Desert Dreamings* series.

Opening Friday night 6.00pm July 15<sup>th</sup> and continuing until 25<sup>th</sup> at the beautiful Old George Gallery in East Fremantle.

Invitations will be posted out prior to that date - [DIARISE NOW!](#)

## Artitja's next viewing dates – 16 April

Look out for your *Invitation to View* our latest works, which will be sent out very shortly. Beginning 16 April and including works by artists from Utopia, Papunya, Yuendumu and regions. However keep in mind we always carry stock and are available at all times by appointment on 0418 900 954.

[www.artitja.com.au](http://www.artitja.com.au)

We have recently updated our gallery pages on our web site so please check it out [www.artitja.com.au](http://www.artitja.com.au)

## Our client base grows...

We are also happy to say we now have interstate and international clients on our list and look forward to a continuing and growing relationship in that area. We'd like to take this opportunity to

thank all our clients- local, interstate and international for your support and interest.

That's it for this edition of our newsletter. We invite comment and suggestions for items to include in future editions.

We look forward to seeing or hearing from you in the near future.

**Anna Kanaris and Arthur Clarke**

