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Newsletter Vol. 11 May 2007

In this newsletter:

- **Welcome**
- **Small Works Show**
- **Janine McAullay Bott – Noongar bush sculptor**
- **New works**
- **Desert Dreamings 2007**
- **Boodja Arts now in Indigenous hands**
- **Other things...**
- **Website**

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2007 – the newsletter which changes the concept of the ‘quarterly’. It is a bit late to wish you all a Happy New Year particularly as we are almost half way through it. I have recently asked some of my younger peers if time flies for them as well, and they agree it does. Our world has become so much faster it seems – which makes Arthur and I constantly aware of the privilege of our regular visits ‘out bush’ where life is so much slower. Where we do get the chance to stop and “smell the desert roses!” as shown here – this was taken last week on the trip out to Utopia – the road was scattered with this beautiful plant.



The Desert Rose – on the road to Utopia



The skyline at Sunset...

The Small Works Show – held in March 2007

Once again we would like to thank you for your interest and attendance at our Small Works Show in March 2007. It was a very successful show and we were particularly pleased as it was only on for four days! Risky – as it takes as much effort as putting on a longer show.

One of the repeat comments we had during the show was regarding the affordability of the art. Many new buyers in the market who are becoming increasingly interested in acquiring Aboriginal art are misled by publicity about the high prices of the art – so it was good to be able to create the awareness that quality Aboriginal art can be affordable – and that there are differing levels in the market.

There are still some pieces left from the Irltja community series of small works by artists - some of whom have only recently begun painting. Here are a few:



Sandy Hunter
45x30cm
\$190



Sandy Hunter
45x30cm
\$190



David Ross Puerle
60x30cm
\$270



Elton Ross
45x30cm
\$190

JANINE McAULLAY BOTT – Noongar Bush Sculptor

We featured the works of **Janine McAullay Bott** in our last newsletter and are very pleased to be representing her. Janine's works have now become a regular feature of our exhibition programme and we look forward to that relationship continuing – which indeed it will do so with more of her exquisite bush sculptors being created right now as part of our forthcoming July exhibition (details later).

Since some of her works having been acquired at our October show into the Stokes and the Holmes á Court collection, Janine has been busy conducting workshops in regional WA resulting in some wonderful stories and creations by participants in her classes. A lovely story she told us was of a young indigenous boy in Port Hedland who wove a very intricate purse for his Mum in which he put in shells and baubles. Janine said it was stunning!

Below is an image of Janine's Frill Neck Lizard – this piece is (surprisingly) still available.



*Frill Neck
Lizard*
53x43cm
P.O.A.

For enquiries about Janine McAullay Bott's works or commissions please call 9336 7787 or email info@artitja.com.au .

NEW WORKS

We have just returned from the Central desert with more new experiences, knowledge and beautiful hand selected artworks – some for our July show and some available right now. To make an

appointment to view, or just to ask what works we have on hand please call 9336 7787 or email info@artitja.com.au .

Here are some pictures of our trip:



The ladies at Utopia reading through the Utopia – A Picture Story book and checking out all their rellies...



*Rockhole site – we were taken here – very much off the beaten track – by Lindsay Bird senior elder and lawman
The dark round central point is a deep waterhole*



I know there is a photo of the mulga ants nest on our website but I find them fascinating! This one was a perfect work of art...

DESERT DREAMINGS 2007

It is looming – our Desert Dreamings 2007 exhibition, the fourth in our annual series will this year open on Friday 6th July and continue until the 15th, at the Old Royal George Gallery in East Fremantle and is shaping up to be quite a special show. You will receive an invitation closer to the date but for now – please *diarize* Friday 6th July, 6pm for the opening!

BOODJA ARTS NOW IN INDIGENOUS HANDS

In March this year Arthur and I sold our business Boodja Aboriginal Art and Craft (Boodja Arts) which we owned for ten years. We are delighted that the shop went to indigenous ownership and a colleague I worked with in radio 20 years ago! Wayne Bynder and his son Neil are now the proud new owners of Boodja Arts.

Back in the eighties while Wayne was working with the ABC and based in Kununurra, he, I and two other community radio colleagues toured the Kimberley visiting remote communities to assist them with setting up their own radio stations. The project was successful – as I'm sure Wayne and Neil's business venture will be.

Boodja was very good to us and indeed a stepping stone to Artitja. Although the two markets – tourism and fine art are quite different, Arthur and I believe that the ethics, cultural importance, operation and remaining true to the source are as important. So much tourism product now pours in from Asia that the buyer beware logo needs to be heeded in both sectors.

We are proud to have owned our little business at the Fremantle Markets – we looked after it and it looked after us. So if you have visitors in town who are looking for gifts to take back with them – go visit Wayne, Neil and his family.

OTHER THINGS...

Desert tour –

We know many of our clients would love to share our experiences out bush and we are considering making that happen. To allow us to investigate the option – we would need to ascertain the seriousness of the level of interest. If you would be interested in such a venture, please send an email to info@artitja.com.au and just mention this para with any questions.

Home viewings –

We are available for group viewings at your home or workplace – to discuss please call 08 9336 7787 or email info@artitja.com.au .

Anna's choice –

I'm a great fan of Angeline Pwerle's spirit painting story. Here are two new ones in stock...



Angeline Ngale
Pwerle
109x61cm



Angeline Ngale
Pwerle
60x60cm

WEBSITE

www.artitja.com.au

We have recently updated our website and although it is still small and personal, we are constantly making improvements and as regularly as manageable updating images. Please visit www.artitja.com.au to view.

That's it... for our latest newsletter. We hope you have enjoyed reading it and felt at least a little transported into the centre of this wonderful land with its rockholes and waterholes, hills and trees.

I never fail to be amazed at this expanse of land called a desert – the colour, the landscape, the wildlife. We saw eagles, camels, wild horses, kangaroos, emus, a mountain devil lizard, a snake (not a close encounter thank goodness), perent lizards, budgerigars, beetles – and a lot of flies.

But most of all the people – their courage, their focus and culture in a beautiful but harsh environment.

And the Art. *Enchanting.*

Anna Kanaris & Arthur Clarke



Below: *The Dockers at Utopia!*

