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Newsletter Vol.3 September 2004



It's known as the desert – but in May this year after an unusually wet spell Utopia was green and lush

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WELCOME to the September edition of our newsletter, with an update of what's happening in the Aboriginal art world and with Artitja Fine Art.

As you probably know by now Artitja has a web site, www.artitja.com.au. The site is only a few weeks old, but already is receiving many hits, and the feedback on its presentation has been very good. Having said that, we're always looking for ways of improvement and are happy to take suggestions on how they can be made.

Private viewings on now!! 28 August – 26 September

You should by now have received an invitation to our private viewings which begin Saturday August 28th, and continue for the duration of September.

I have once again personally selected a variety of fabulous art, all sizes and prices from the small but very popular 30x30cm striking little paintings right through to paintings over 1.5m, and good quality investment art.

On offer this time is a greater range of works from Pintupi artists from the central/western desert, spanning the region from Papunya through to Kiwirrkura in Western Australia and Haasts Bluff such as this work below by Mitjili Naparulla (**news flash: just sold**). We also have some nice works from Utopia, and some new works by



Mitjili Napurrula, 122x122 Acrylic on Linen **SOLD**

Barney Ellaga – an artist from Ngukurr (pronounced Nooka) community at Roper River, south east Arnhem Land in the N.T. See below.

I am quite excited about some of the new works I have to show this time, with some fabulous pieces from artists such as Barbara Reid Napangarti, Barney Ellaga, stunningly bright and colourful works by Maisy Campbell Napaltjarri, Mitjili Naparulla and lots more! I'm happy to send images of art if you're interested in a particular artist, and happier still to show you personally.

Many of the Utopian works on hand will be shown at our Exhibition (details below) and will be available for preview a little closer to that time. I will inform you when all the works are in – previews will only be available to existing clients and data base members such as yourself.



L-R Barney Ellaga painting his work entitled "Country" and the finished product "" 128x61cm.

21st Telstra Art Awards

It's known as the Telstra Awards, but in fact the shortened name doesn't accurately reflect what the Award really is other than amongst industry people.

The 21st Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, held annually in Darwin, is a highly prestigious Art award and all entrants, winners or not, carry the mantle of prestige from having been selected from the hundreds of works that are sent in to the Awards annually.

This year the first prize of \$40,000 went to Gulumbu Yunupingu – from Yirrkala for her work entitled *Garak, The Universe*

– three beautiful and exquisitely painted memorial poles signifying the link between people and the stars in the sky. Gulumbu's father was Munggurrawuy Yunupingu, and her brother is the well known Mandaway Yunupingu – lead singer of Yothu Yindi and along with all members of the Yunupingu family – highly respected figures in both political and cultural life in the area, and Australia wide.

The poles were indeed a worthy winner and I certainly didn't hear much of a rumble suggesting otherwise!



Dancers preparing for the presentation of Kay Lindjuwanga's award (no, its not your eyes – the picture is a little blurred)

The Top End artists ruled this year and commendations also went to Kay Lindjuwanga for a bark painting and a Timothy Wulanjbirr for his piece *Lorrkon, Hollow Log*.

Spider Snell from Fitzroy Crossing also received a commendation (\$4000 prize) with a fabulous large work entitled *Kurtal Jila*. Spider was so proud he got up and gave a speech – and had everyone mesmerized for quite some time while he regaled us with his story – all in his language! As my view was obstructed I got a photo of him addressing the crowd on this fabulous balmy Darwin night via the large screen – see below:



Fitzroy artist Spider Snell addressing the Darwin crowd

Art.Trade

As a board member of our association Art.Trade (Australian Indigenous Art Traders Association) my visit to Darwin was not just to attend the Telstra Art Awards but also to participate in our annual conference and AGM.

This year Art.trade held a fundraising art auction after our meetings and was successful in raising funds not just for our (self funded) organization, but also for the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Fund, which has been established by Sydney based auctioneers Lawson-Menzies (an idea initially mooted by Art.trade). The fund assists in health, welfare and education of indigenous groups in need.

Art.trade members commit to operating under a Code of Ethics if you would like to know more, go to www.arttrade.asn.au

Julie Nungala Robinson



L-R Julie Nungala Robinson "Pirlanyungu" panels

One of my favourite young, emerging artists is Julie Nungala Robinson, daughter of well known accomplished artist Dorothy Napangardi. If you know Dorothy's work you will recognise the influence that Julie's mother has had on her work, although still maintaining her own individual style. If you like the simplicity of black and white

(interspersed with grey dotting – please excuse my photography) Julie's works have a real strength and presence. I think she'll go far and has already been included in significant public and private collections, including our own Edith Cowan University.

I have been trying for ages to get some of her works – and have finally got 6 lovely pieces here. Affordable too...

In my opinion, Julie Nungala Robinson is a 'watch this space' artist.

Desert Dreamings II: The Bush Yam Story - coming in October

The support and encouragement we received from you after our Desert Dreamings exhibition earlier this year has motivated us to hold Desert Dreamings II: The Bush Yam Story opening 8 October at 6.30 pm at Kidogo Arthouse Gallery at Bathers Beach in Fremantle (diarise this date now!)

The bush yam theme was chosen after one of my visits to Alice Springs, where I sat and watched Anna Price Petyarre painting the most exquisite, detailed dotted works which depict her dreaming *kame* – yam seed. We got on very well, and to combat language difficulties decided that we would be Anna 1 and Anna 2 and due to the artistic brilliance I saw before my eyes, I voted her as Anna 1 – I'm sure that once you see her art you will agree that Anna Price is a champion!

The most exciting news is that we are bringing Anna to Fremantle to join us on opening night, so you will have a chance to meet her and discuss her art with her.

Brief biographical details: Anna Price Petyarre is niece to Emily Kngwarreye, cousin to Greeny Purvis Petyarre and Dolly Mills Petyarre, and Aunt to Greeny's daughters Maureen and Jennifer Purvis. All the above artists will be represented in the exhibition in a generational show of their bush yam depictions.



Anna Price Petyarre (Anna 1) and myself (Anna 2)

Not painting Bush Yam, but as an introduction to the work of young, emerging artist we will also be exhibiting in the side gallery at Kidogo the bright and colourful works of Janelle Stockman Napaltjarri. There is a lot of interest nationally in Janelle's work – who doesn't paint her dreaming, but is influenced by the colours of the wildflowers in the desert after the rains. A young artist to look out for, she paints bright, bold, swirls and geometric designs – all very individual leaving you wondering ... "what will she come up with next!".



Janelle Stockman
Napaltjarri 90x90cm
"Country"

Janelle is granddaughter to well known Papunya painter Billy Stockman Tjapaltjarri, and through marriage is living in Utopia.

General News

I had several requests from recipients of this newsletter for more photographs, and I have accommodated that wish here. At the same time I am conscious that we all have different email accounts and levels of capacity. We are now on broadband, so its quite easy for me to send many images, but for my hotmail clients, I take out the images as hotmail accounts don't like photos.

As usual, I am always interested in feedback regarding what works and what doesn't for you, so please email me if you have difficulty receiving this newsletter via email. I do also mail out newsletters (not everyone is on email) although I don't have a decent printer, so images aren't the best, but am happy to do that if you prefer.

In regards to your response to Artitja Fine Art, both Arthur and I feel that we are on the up and up, and the hard work is paying off. The art and the artists are really what do motivate us and inspire us at all times, even though commercially we of course have to consider that Artitja is also our living - but it is your response to the art and the choices that we put to you that makes it worthwhile from this end.

*Again, can I please ask you to keep in mind, that although we are developing an exhibition programme we are a private gallery, by appointment only, and **operate all year round**, not just at exhibition time and we stock art at all times – and to pass on our name to your interested friends and colleagues. As we are a private gallery, we don't advertise widely and to a large extent rely on word of mouth.*

Framing

Just a reminder that our fabulous framers **Trimmings Fine Art and Framing** work very closely with us to ensure high quality and very affordable framing. Malcolm at Trimmings can be contacted on 9339 3553 for any of your framing requirements. **Trimmings** is in East Fremantle.

www.artitja.com.au

Finally don't forget a) to visit us on the web and b) that we are currently holding private viewings - please call to make an appointment....

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

Anna Kanaris/Arthur Clarke
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