



PO Box 406, South Fremantle WA 6162
Tel: 61 8 9336 7787
Fax: 61 8 9336 6901
Mob: 0418 900 954
Email: info@artitja.com.au
Web: www.artitja.com.au

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Welcome to our February newsletter – updating what Artitja is up to and where we are headed.

All good intentions to send this in January have failed me, so it's a little late for Arthur and I to wish you a Happy New Year as it now almost a quarter way through.

We have however recently celebrated the Chinese New Year – the year of the Rat – so we will take the opportunity to wish you all an auspicious, happy, healthy and wealthy 2008 in all aspects of life – a year which promises much change both in Australia and worldwide and in which there is a growing awareness of the need to look after our planet, ourselves and our neighbours. It feels good.



**Cultural Connections – the Art of the Mowanjum people
28th March – 6th April**



As exclusive agents of the Mowanjum artists based in Derby, Arthur and I are delighted to be showcasing these fine artists work in Perth at our next significant show *Cultural*

Connections to be held at our new and exciting venue at the Atwell Art Centre Gallery in Alfred Cove, opening on Friday night 28th March at 6pm. Senior Lawman Donny Woolagoodja, Chairman of the Art Centre and other community members will be at the opening. This is a very exciting show.

Following is a little about the artists and the Mowanjum people to put you in the picture ...

“Artists from Mowanjum began producing pieces for sale soon after their arrival to their new mission near Derby in 1956. Images of the enigmatic wandjina appeared first on paper, cardboard packaging, bark and Boab nuts. Early artists included Wattie Karrawarra, Charlie Numbelmore, Alec Mingelamanganu, Jack Wherra, Sam Woolagoodja, Manila Kutwit, David Mowaljarli, Albert Barunga, Alan Mungulu, Wattie Ngerdu, Paddy Morlumbun, Collier Bangmorra and Spider Burgu.

A resurgence in painting began at the community in 1998 when a group of artists formed their own organisation

called MASWAC. Electing Donny Woolagoodja as their Chairperson they have completely revitalized their cherished Wandjina culture. In the past decade they have held sellout exhibitions throughout Australia and played a pivotal role in the Sydney 2000 Olympics and subsequent Indigenous Festivals throughout Australia.

In total there are less than 40 Kimberley artists producing Wandjina paintings. As a highly recognized school of Indigenous Art this is a very small number of artists. Artists such as Donny Woolagoodja and Sandra Mungulu began selling works in the late 1990's for \$300 to \$400. Similar paintings today are worth \$8,000 to \$12,000."

(Information supplied by the Mowanjum Art Centre)

Seiji Konishi and Janine McAullay Bott – Cross Cultural workshop Sunday 30 March

An added feature to our *Cultural Connections* exhibition will be the inclusion of works and a special one day workshop with esteemed master weaver Seiji Konishi who will be working in collaboration with our very own Janine McAullay Bott, whose weaves you will all be quite familiar with now.



Mr Konishi, from Kyoto works with Madagascan Raffia and uses a tight coiling technique, which produces beautiful, strong sculptural pieces (see above) which contrast well with Janines looser, less structured creative sculptures made from palm fronds.

Janine and Mr Konishi have been collaborating on a special piece over the internet via images and email conversations and have almost finished creating an incredible collaborative masterpiece which will be unveiled on opening night - *ensuring that you must attend!*

Mr Konishi is a sprightly 73 years of age and is very much looking forward to his first visit to Australia, at the invitation of Artitja Fine Art.



Janine (left) will of course, have some more of her bush sculptures on show alongside a display of Mr Konishi's (right) weaves. All will be for sale – a chance to collect work from both Janine whose reputation is fast growing for her weaving skills and from a Japanese master weaver.

For those of you interested in weaves and attending the workshop, the flyer attached to this email outlines the details. To register please either email or call. The day workshop costs \$120 and we take credit card and cheque payment.



Feature Artists

Fred Purula

Barbara Weir

Utopian art lovers will be familiar with works by the late Minnie Pwerle and her daughter Barbara Weir who is one of our feature artists in this newsletter.

The good news is that the creative talent of this family continues with the emergence of new talent in the works of Barbara Weir's son, Fred Purula who paints *Scorpion Dreaming* – a story handed to him by his grandmother the late Minnie Pwerle and his aunts' Minnie's sisters.

The even better news is that these works are the first time Fred Purula's works have been shown in Perth exclusive to Artitja Fine Art.

Fred has been painting for some time in a private capacity and now feels it is time to extend his work into the commercial arena.

Artitja is very pleased to be able to be the first to present Fred Purula's works to our clients.

Here are some images and details of the three works we have available. Please email any enquiries to info@artitja.com.au or call +91 8 9336 7787 or 0418 900 954.



Fred Purula: Scorpion Dreaming 120x90 \$3300



Fred Purula above & below: Scorpion Dreaming 120x90cm \$3300



There is great depth in Fred's representation of his *Scorpion Dreaming* giving the impression of the complexities of the landscape and the hiding places of the scorpion.

Barbara Weir

Barbara's mother is the late Minnie Pwerle and her father Irish. As was government policy in the 1950's at the age of 9 Barbara was taken from her mother and fostered out to various families and resided in an orphanage. In the late 1960's she discovered she was from Utopia in the central desert when she spoke to a man in a bar in Darwin who told her he knew her family. She bravely packed up her 6 children and went in search of them.

Her arrival wasn't welcomed as she had hoped it would, her mother thinking her daughter had died and keeping her distance. Barbara's aunt the late Emily Kngwarreye took her under her wing and Barbara took her return quite

seriously, relearning her languages and eventually becoming a respected spokesperson for the community and her people.

As an artist, Barbara has well and truly established her career. She has travelled throughout Europe, Asia and the USA where she has exhibited successfully since the 1990's. She has been exhibited widely throughout Australia and her works can be found in State and National Gallery collections and many private collectors worldwide.

Barbara paints two stories primarily – Grasses, which depict a particular shrub with medicinal properties which grows in her country (see below). These works consist of long overlaid curved brush strokes, giving an effect of depth and movement.



Barbara Weir: Grasses 120x90cm \$6900

Barbara's other story/design *My Mothers Country* represents the important and sacred places in her country, ceremonial sites, rivers, waterholes, campsites, plants and tucker which she patiently covers with



Barbara Weir: My Mothers Country 190x125cm \$14500

a multitude of fine dots creating an air of subtlety and mystery.

Although the movement in Barbara's grasses paintings are mesmerising, her Mother's Country paintings are my absolute favourites. They are so rich in content that I always see something new each time I look at one of these paintings.

This one featured above is an excellent example, much better in real life as it is difficult to photograph, however the detail is stunning.

Below Left: 120x60cm \$3900



90x60cm \$3300

Kayili Artists – Gibson Desert

We are also proud to be the Perth representatives for the Kayili Artists who are located at Patjarr a very remote part of Western Australia in the Gibson Desert. A very small populated community (circa 20!) this is not a prolific art centre, but consists of some very sought after artists. Here are some new works we have on hand. If you would like to view them please email on info@artitja.com.au or phone for an appointment 9336 7787 or 0418 900 954.



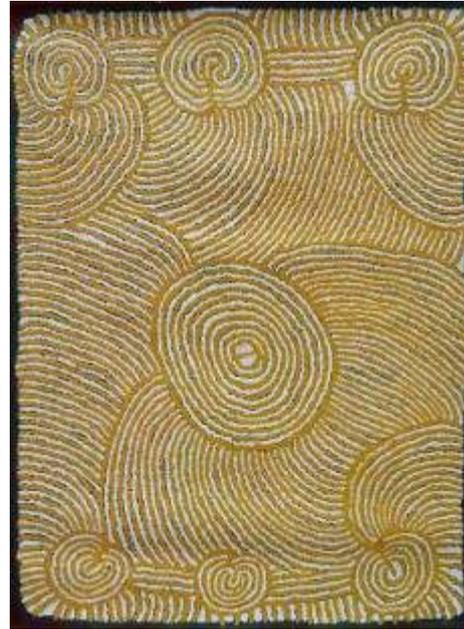
*L: Laila West
102x76 \$1900*

*Below: Nancy
Carnegie
152x102
\$3200*

*Below Right:
Pulpurra
Davies
76x76cm
\$2150*



*L: Manupa
Butler
102x152cm
\$2900*



Above: Nancy Carnegie 102x76cm \$2100



Website

Don't forget to keep updated with what's happening and new works by checking out our website www.artitja.com.au .
New works will be going on soon.

That's it... we hope you enjoyed reading our latest newsletter. For any enquiries, feedback or to make an appointment to view, please feel free to call or email.

**Anna Kanaris &
Arthur Clarke**

