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Newsletter Vol.6 September 2005

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WELCOME to this sixth edition of our newsletter - packed with news of what Artitja has been up to and what's happening in the Aboriginal Art world.

As usual, Arthur and I have been very busy with Artitja, and from all accounts it does look as though **busy** will remain our buzz word for some time to come! And we're not complaining...

Desert Dreamings 2005

A big thanks to all of you who attended our *Desert Dreamings 2005* exhibition at the Old George Gallery in East Fremantle in July - both for coming along and for helping to make it the success that it was. It was indeed very encouraging to see the amount of people at opening night, who chose to visit our exhibition, or include us in the circuit of several art openings in Fremantle on the same evening. We had a lot of people visit the exhibition throughout its duration, and were happy with the positive

response to our selection of the works by the artists represented.

We were also delighted with writer and arts advocate Barry Strickland's great talk about the history and the beginnings of the Aboriginal Art movement and drawing the thread of such a historic and important occasion to our exhibition in East Fremantle. It's always an honour to have Barry opening our shows putting an educational slant onto the proceedings, and I hope the tradition continues.



Barry Strickland opening our Desert Dreamings 2005 Exhibition.

For more photographs of the opening night please visit our website www.artitja.com.au and click on the exhibitions button - also check out the photos of what it took to put it together!

We would also like to send a warm welcome to our new data base members, and hope you enjoy our newsletter and forthcoming news and exhibitions.

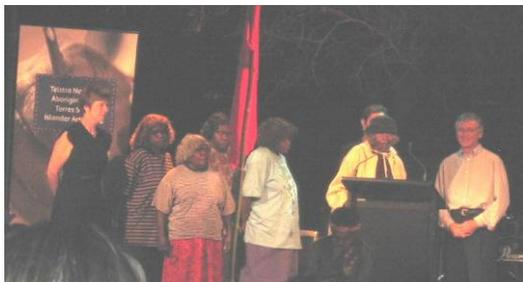
And the winner is.... Toyota Dreaming! The 2005 Telstra Indigenous Art Awards

In March this year on one of my visits to Alice Springs, I dropped in to Tjampitjampiti baskets run by the Ngaanyatjarra,

Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council), and found a very excited Thisbee (ex coordinator) who had just finished packing and sending a woven grass life size Toyota flattop truck to Darwin. The very large sculptor woven by 20 women from Blackstone in WA, had been accepted into the prestigious art awards and was to be on display in August when the awards are held and the winners announced.

Leaving a little later, I was just as excited as Thisbee who showed me heaps of images on screen of the project coming together and what fun the women had! It looked like a real hoot, and I was really looking forward to seeing the actual truck, secretly hoping that they would get a category award.

Well, what a surprise when the Blackstone Tjampí women were awarded the main prize, and presented with a cheque for \$40,000! What a HOOT! 20 women, \$2k each. What an amazing experience that would have been.



Blackstone community elder Kantjupayi Benson accepting the award on behalf of the 20 weavers

We say Congratulations to all involved at Tjampí – keep up the amazing work!

I don't have a picture of the truck because I didn't take one, but if you didn't see it in the news around the time, just type in *woven Toyota truck* on a Google search, and it'll come up.

Also, remember we have Tjampí baskets available for sale – so if you're looking for that special gift with a difference – give us a call.

Artitja on the Board of Art.trade

Part of the reason for Artitja's annual visits to Darwin around Awards time is to fulfil my duties as Board member and attend the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Indigenous Art Traders Association – or Art.trade.



Art.trade fundraising auction held in Darwin

Art.trade is the national organisation for persons and organisations experienced in the business of indigenous art, and members commit to operating under a code of ethics.

Artitja Fine Art (initially joined as Boodja Arts) has been a founding member of the organisation which came together in 1998, and I (Anna) have held various positions on the Board since 2001.

Last year as a fundraising venture (Art.trade is self funded) we decided to hold an Aboriginal Art auction, and after ironing out some problems we conducted another this year, cementing its future.

There are two reasons for the auction, 1) to raise money for operational costs for our organisation and 2) to donate a percentage of the money raised to the Aboriginal Benefits Foundation. The Foundation has been established to finance health, education and development projects in Aboriginal communities.

Although we haven't finalized the figures yet, we are hoping that this year's contribution will be above the \$5000 we donated last year.

To find out more about Art.trade go to www.arttrade.asn.au .

New Works.....



*Anna with
Evelyn Pultara
Alice Springs,
August 2005*

Another surprise win at the Art awards in Darwin was in the painting category – and Evelyn Pultara’s win. Evelyn paints Bush Yam and she is connected to the Emily Kngwarreye family line. She has been steadily painting for several years now and it will be interesting to see how her profile changes as a result of her win – which quite often is a stepping stone to international success for the Indigenous art award winners.

I had the privilege of meeting Evelyn once she returned to Alice Springs after collecting her award and brought back with me three of her paintings, which are available. One is photographed here. Also Evelyn who was very proud of her win, was happy to be photographed together (see above).



Evelyn Pultara – Bush Yam 120x90cm \$2500

Apart from Evelyn Pultara paintings I have also returned with some incredibly vibrant paintings, full of depth and colour by Kudditji Kngwarreye – again related to the late great Emily Kngwarreye – her brother (cousin in western terms).

There is no secret that my photography leaves a lot to be desired, but be excited

that these paintings in real life are absolutely brilliant. Both are 120x90cm and priced at \$3200 (see below)



Other artists and works we now also carry are Lily Kelly Napangardi, her sister Topsy, some great new paintings by Gloria Petyarre And of course, Minnie Pwerle. I hear so many people lamenting Minnie’s ‘prolific’ nature, but I still maintain that she is a great artist, is still producing gems, and we hold some of them!

Artitja Features in STM

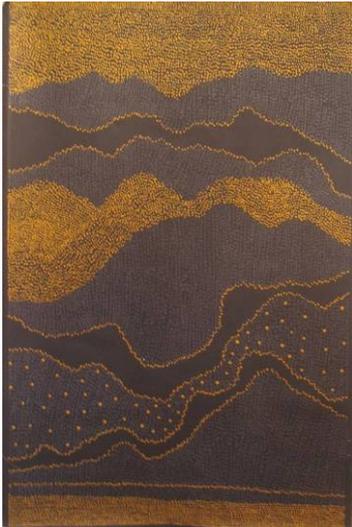
The response to the article on Arthur and myself in “The 2 of Us” section of the Sunday Times Magazine in July, coinciding with our exhibition has had incredibly positive results from many people and bought some wonderful old contacts from the past back into our lives. The best part of it is that it was all true and it is encouraging to know that journalists (self included) don’t always get it wrong, as so often accused. Paula Aubin spent a good several hours with us, and put together a great snapshot of who Arthur and I really are; how we work together, and how Artitja fits into our lives. A mean feat indeed....

Julie Nangala Robertson

I can’t quite seem to let a newsletter go by without mentioning one of my all time favourite artists – Julie Nangala Robertson. By now you probably know Julie is daughter to Dorothy Napangardi, and whereas we were featuring her art two years ago as an emerging artist, Julie has now had her own successful solo shows, and is in 5 very strong private

collections, including the Holmes A Court collection. An artist emerged.

Earlier this year we negotiated with Julie's agent to have exclusive rights to sell her work here and have had great success in getting a second, larger piece of her work into the Edith Cowan University Art Collection, and other smaller private collections.



Julie Nangala Robertson, *Pirlinyanu*,
198x122cm

Julie paints *Pirlinyanu* – her traditional country story, and uses yellow oxide, red, and white on black for dazzling effect on her paintings. We have a nice collection of Julie's works here at the moment, all sizes, shapes and colours, so please call if you would like to enquire about her works on 0418 900 954 or email anna@artitja.com.au. We can also take commissions.

The “Dobag Rug” tour.

Those of you who have visited our home gallery would also know that Arthur and I have a passion for Persian rugs, several of which we have purchased from Terry and Pam Hoyne at Temple rugs, who many of you already know.

Terry and Pam take groups on the “Anatolian Civilizations & The Dobag Villages” tour twice a year – and they are now taking bookings for May 2006.

These trips are fantastic cultural and educational experiences - to find out more, go to www.templerugs.com.au or phone 0417 957 643.

Artitja's next viewing dates – 17 September – 8 October 2005

Look out for your *Invitation to View* our latest works, which will be sent out very shortly. Beginning 17th September until 8th October, we will have more works by artists from Utopia, and central and western desert regions.

However keep in mind we always carry artworks and are available seven days by appointment on 0418 900 954.

www.artitja.com.au

We have recently updated our gallery pages on our web site so please check it out www.artitja.com.au

Other news...

- We still have in stock the Geoffrey Bardon book “Papunya – a Place made after the story” at a reduced rrp cost of \$110.00.
- If you need your works framed we recommend our framers Trimmings Fine Art and Framing - excellent work and very reasonable prices – phone Malcolm 9339 3553. (Malcolm also works the desk at our exhibitions!)

That's it for this edition of our newsletter. I've more news but just not enough room! We hope you enjoy the read, and 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**

