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Newsletter Vol. 9 Aug/Sep 2006

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Welcome to this latest edition of our newsletter — here we are well into the second half of the year with developments in the first having led to a definitive change in the world of Aboriginal art both in the national and the international scene.

Minnie Pwerle – sadly missed

Certainly it was a very sad time in March this year when we received the news that Minnie Pwerle had suffered a major stroke and passed away.

Minnie was an incredible woman full of life and energy – a 'jillaroo' as a young girl she worked on the station alongside the men rounding up cattle, and suffered the taking away of her eldest child, Barbara Weir, who was only eight years of age at the time. Her crime: to have had a child with the white station owner. She was jailed for the liaison, as was the Station Manager, Barbara's father, who died several years later.



Minnie's strength: pulling through it, surviving until the grand old age of 87 in a harsh environment which Minnie loved – and what a way to go. Hunting goanna! We're told she was so proud of her catch the day she passed away and she died happy and in her country where she died at home in her community.

Minnie was also a great artist. Her energy poured into her paintings and she had a natural instinct for colour and form. Her paintings came together so quickly, I remember watching her begin a painting one day (not a huge one) when I turned to finish a conversation I was having with another artist then when I turned back Minnie was onto her second! The paintings were gorgeous.

Art made Minnie very happy and at a time in her life when she ought to have been kicking back she was a main provider for her extended family, something she was immensely proud of.



We are going to miss having new works of Minnie's very much although the end of her life doesn't spell the end of her legacy – the many beautiful paintings that Minnie Pwerle has left behind.

Musee Quai Branly officially opens in Paris, France.

In our December 2005 newsletter I reported on our visit to Paris last year and to the site of the Musee du quai Branley in Paris.

The huge project was the brainchild and pet project of French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, who with the opening of the Musee in June, has realised his dream of having the world's biggest museum dedicated solely to the indigenous art and cultures of the world.

Australian Aboriginal artists are well represented with works by artists Tommy Watson, Lena Nyabi, Ningura Napurrula, Judy Watson, John Mawurndjul, Gulumbu Yunipingu, Paddy Bedford and Michael Riley.

This project will no doubt raise the profile of Australian Indigenous art and artists in Europe. Certainly a place to visit when in Paris!

23rd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Awards – Darwin August 2006

We have just returned from the Telstra Indigenous Art Awards which are held annually in Darwin during the Festival on the second Friday of the month of August.

The entries this year were excellent and the winners were as follow:

Major Award \$40000:

Ngoia Napaltjarri Pollard for her work entitled *Swamps west of Nyirripi*

General Painting Award \$4000

Linda Syddick Napaltjarri for her work entitled *The Witch Doctor and the Windmill*

Bark Painting Award \$4000

Samuel Manunjdja for his work entitled *Gungura (Wind Dreaming with Goanna Track)*

Work on Paper Award \$4000

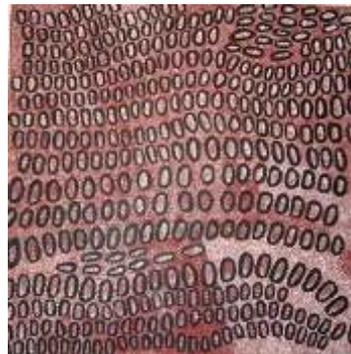
Judy Watson for her Etching entitled *a preponderance of aboriginal blood*

Wandjuk Marika 3D Memorial Award \$4000

Baluka Maymuru for painted poles entitled *Dhakandjali*



The crowd at the NT Museum and Art Gallery in waiting for the 23rd Telstra NATSI Awards to begin.



Ngoia Pollard Napaltjarri 90x90cm (Artitja stock)

Desert Dreamings 2006: Stars of the Desert 13-29 October

It's been a long time coming but I'm sure it will be worth the wait!

Artitja Fine Art's next show in the Desert Dreamings series opens on Friday 13th October – 'lucky Friday' – and will continue for a week longer than normal winding up on the 29th.



Anna with Gloria Petyarre in Alice Springs

Arthur and I are very excited about presenting Desert Dreamings 2006: *Stars of the Desert* this

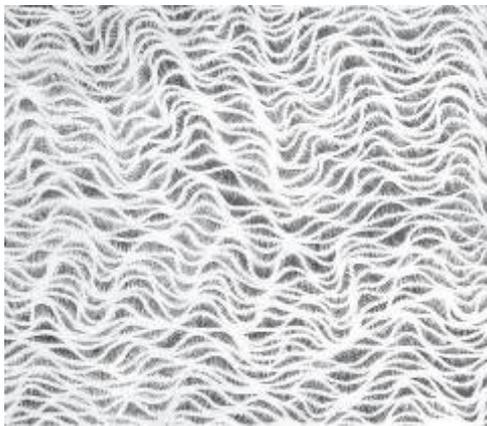
year, particularly as Gloria Petyarre is heading over for the show and will be our featured artist, along with Julie Nangala Robinson who we have represented exclusively in Perth for the last few years. We will also be showing works from the Morton family most of whom along with Gloria were involved in the Utopia Batik project in the eighties (ref: *Utopia: A*

Picture Story). All Stars from the Desert!
All the works are here, they are stunning
and we hope you will be able to attend
opening night and meet Gloria on the
13th October.

New Works Available

We have just returned from the central
desert with many wonderful works, just a
few of which are shown here. If you
would like to view, or make enquiries
about these or others we may have,
please call 9336 7787 or 0418 900 954

Works from Mt Liebig/Kintore artists:



Christine Peterson Nangala 107x122cm



Wentja 2 Napaltjarri 120x90cm

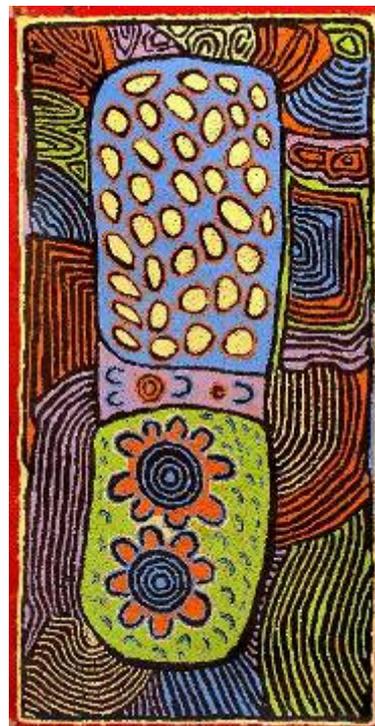


Tjukiya Napaltjarri 70x46cm



*Clarice Morgan
145x55cm*

*(right) Dulcie Kelly Nangala
150x31cm*



Maisie Campbell Napaltjarri 150x78cm

Works from Utopia



Above: Betty Mpetwane Club 102x102cm



Barbara Weir 120x90cm (top) 120x120 (below)



*The minimalist Kathleen Ngale works
140x45cm*



OCHRES

We still have some lovely ochre paintings from the Kimberley on hand by Tommy Carroll, June Peters, Lily Karadada and Shirley Purdie – if you would like images I am happy to forward them to you.

An end note...

That's it for this edition of our newsletter – we hope you have enjoyed it and feel inspired by these beautiful works from the desert and the amazing people who create them. Every trip out to the desert never fails to inspire us both in terms of our continuing passion for the art and the amazement at what a beautiful country we live in and how much it and its first people have to offer.

As Artitja now has a steady stream of interest and appointments coming through, we will still send out invitations to view, but really – the invitation is there every day of the year. So please do call and make an appointment or look up our website www.artitja.com.au.



**Anna Kanaris and Arthur Clarke
Artitja Fine Art**