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Newsletter Vol. 10 December 2006

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Welcome to this – late – rather than latest newsletter – just as I sat down to write it last week my laptop harddrive corrupted and slowed me down somewhat. However, our intention was always to get it out before Christmas in order to wish all clients and friends of Artitja a safe, happy and healthy festive season – and to send wishes of good health and prosperity for 2007.



Arthur and I would very much like to thank you for your support and in turn will commit to continuing our practice of not just showing you beautiful indigenous art, but also connecting our two cultures by informing as well as presenting the works.

Also – I'm sure we all are aware of the importance of sending a very special thanks to the artists themselves – if not

for them we would be sorely missing a huge part of this country's cultural make-up.

Gloria Petyarre enjoys her show!

Desert Dreamings 2006 – Stars of the Desert held at the Old Royal George in October 2006



Gloria waving to the crowd at the end of the night – photo courtesy Nigel Etherington.

What an amazing experience the opening night of our **Desert Dreamings 2006** exhibition was. When Gloria sang her dreaming story - *Mountain Devil Lizard* – the emotional response was incredible with hardly a dry eye in the house. As one long time music industry friend of ours commented “*I have heard many voices over the years but nothing like this – this voice comes from an ancient*

place...” It was spontaneous and from the heart.

Then continuing with the surprises - Janine McAullay Bott – Noongar bush sculptor who after having a long chat with Gloria the evening before about Gloria’s Dreaming ‘totem’ – went home and wove a Mountain Devil Lizard – which she presented to Gloria on the night. Gloria was absolutely delighted – and it was so nice to see her going home with a gift in return for the “gift of Gloria”!

It was very impressive seeing Gloria mingle with the large crowd and we have heard since that she really enjoyed the night and her short stay with us.

Some nice new Gloria Petyarre paintings have just arrived at Artitja if you are interested in having a look.



Gloria holding the Mountain Devil Lizard weave and telling the story of how the Mountain Devil Lizard crosses the country. Photo: Nigel Etherington

JANINE McAULLAY BOTT – Noongar Bush Sculptor

Janine McAullay Bott creates woven animals and other objects from local grasses and reeds, as well as more unusual materials such as grape vines. Her work reflects her heritage as well

as the animals and country of her ancestors.

The self-taught weaver developed her skills and profile in fibre-weaving whilst living in Hawaii and Canada, where she exhibited her work alongside Hopi Indian Rug Weavers and Kachina Doll makers. She has gone on to become one of Australia’s foremost exponents of weaving and bush sculpture.

Janine McAullay Bott’s work has been exhibited nationally and internationally (including France and United States). Her sculptures have been purchased by various collections including the Berndt Museum at the University of Western Australia.

Janine’s work complemented our Desert Dreamings Stars of the Desert show to the extent that she was easily one of the stars – almost all her works sold – and not just private collectors appreciated her works. Two pieces went into the Holmes a Court and Stokes collection respectively.

We were very pleased to have been asked by Janine to represent her. For enquiries please call 9336 7787. Below are some examples of Janine’s work.



Basket \$350



Small Turtle \$90



Fish Trap (SOLD)



Flower Stand \$600

SMALL WORKS/NEW WORKS

We have some lovely small works available – great gifts either for Christmas or if visiting friends or relatives overseas. Here is a small selection:



Audrey Morton 30x30cm \$110



Cindy Wallace 30x30cm \$90



Narbulla Scobie 40x40cm \$200



Helen Kunoth 30x30cm \$90

You can also check out our website www.artitja.com.au for more.

New works just in:

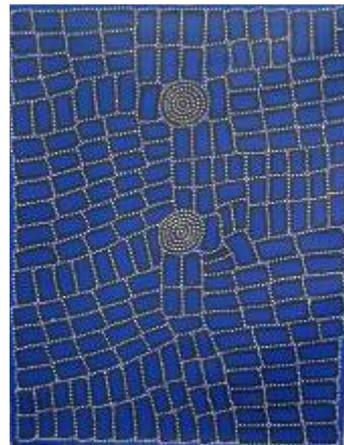


Hilda Price Pwerle – I love her work – Hilda is from Utopia – her nickname is Cookie, and she is related to Minnie Pwerle in the Aboriginal way - sisters, same skin. Hilda was the cook at the school situated at Utopia Homestead for many years thus her nickname.

Size: 140x45cm
Title: Women's Ceremony



*Mitjili
Naparulla
120x120cm*



Walala Tjapaltjarri 120x90cm

PRICES ON REQUEST

BILL WHISKEY TJAPALTJARRI

Bill Whiskey Tjapaltjarri is an artist collectors are very excited about at the moment. Bill is from the Olgas area near Uluru and is painting for Watiyawanu Artists at Mt Leibig. He is in his mid-eighties and has taken the indigenous art world by storm over the last few years – the short time in which he has been painting.

His name derived from his time practising as a witch doctor whilst on the mission at Haasts Bluff – to where his family moved once coming into contact with Europeans. People came from all around to be treated by him. While at the mission he became the cook for the contract fencers and mustering crew and it was at this time that he gained the name “Whiskey” due to his very long white whiskers.

Whiskey’s work is truly wonderful and not many pieces stay on the market for long. He has a vibrant, sure hand and his works are an excellent example of cultural mapping.

We currently have these two Whiskey paintings available:



Bill Whiskey 150x150cm POA



*Bill Whiskey
215x98cm
POA*

*(Biographical information courtesy
Watiyawanu Artists Corp)*

Julie Nangala Robinson increases her profile

As Julie Nangala Robinson’s Perth representatives we are delighted to note that her works have been added into more private collections – the latest being the Musee du Lyon in France.

Daughter of Dorothy Napangardi, Julie is proving that she has the ability and stamina to follow in her famous artist mother’s footsteps and we feel very confident that as she continues to paint her reputation will continue to grow.

Other collections Julie’s works have been acquired for are:

*Holmes a Court Collection
Edith Cowan University, Perth, WA.
Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the
University of Virginia, USA
Vroom Collection, Netherlands
Dr Arthur Bridge Collection, Sydney, NSW*

We have a lovely range of Julie’s works on hand at present if you are interested.

Works range in size from 46x46cm to 198x122cm. Julie paints using a limited palette: Red/white/grey/yellow oxide with grey being the only common colour used with those colours which creates a three dimensional effect to her landscapes.

A great young artist.



*Triptych: Julie Nangala Robinson 61x31cm
\$1900*

Artitja Fine Art 2007 programme...

We are looking forward to increased activity in 2007, as a natural build up to our new contacts and connections made this year. 2006 was a big year for Artitja and it was heartening to receive your acknowledgement shown by the number of people visiting our exhibition in October and the positive feedback thereof.

We are taking that inspiration, putting it together with the inspiration we get from meeting the artists and our desert visits – to continue to bring you more exciting news, works and hopefully artists!

Next year our Desert Dreamings 2007 exhibition will be in July at the Old Royal George Gallery once again – a wonderful venue, beautiful old building, lovely history and easy parking being the main catch-cry from visitors!

Small Works Show 8-11th March at the Old Royal George in East Fremantle

Look out for our “Small Works Show” – opening Thursday 8th March and running

just for a few days until the 11th. We’ve got some gorgeous works put aside already. An invitation will be sent to you.

Happy New Year

That’s it for this edition of our newsletter. Once again we hope you have enjoyed it and feel inspired by these beautiful works from the desert and the amazing people who create them. As mentioned in our previous newsletter, 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.

www.artitja.com.au

Don’t forget to visit our website to see a new selection of just some of the works we have on offer. I do update the site when new works come in but they aren’t all on there so if you are after work by a particular artist from Utopia or the central desert, please let us know.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season and a Happy New Year 2007.



Anna Kanaris and Arthur Clarke



**Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year**