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Newsletter Vol. 14 May 08

In this newsletter:

- **Welcome**
- **New Collection coming soon**
- **Cultural Connections – reviewed in pictures**
- **Weaves and Workshops**
- **Interview in WA Business News**
- **Feature Artist: Leah Umbagai**
- **Must Have Music: Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu**
- **Must have Jewellery: Carved Wandjina**
- **Must have Paintings: Directors choice**
- **Corporate Gifts**
- **What do you think? A survey..**
- **Website**

AFFORDABLE ART - STOCKROOM WORKS
Saturday & Sunday May 17 & 18
10am-6pm
South Fremantle
Details coming soon ...
or call
(08) 9336 7787 0418 900 954

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

New Collection coming soon

How nice – the wettest April in recorded history! Making everything look beautiful and green and lush already. Here's looking forward to a colourful winter - we plan to bring you such with a new collection of works for you to view in

June upon our return from our next central desert trip in a few weeks. Your invitation to view will be in the email upon our return!

Cultural Connections – reviewed in pictures



From 2nd Row L-R: Noel Nannup welcomes Donny Woolagoodja and the Mowanjum artists to Noongar country; R: Janine McAullay Bott and Seiji Konishi, The Premier with Mowanjum artists and Anna..

Photographs: Kandi Terrar

Our very successful *Desert Dreamings* series of exhibitions which began in 2004 with the unveiling of our new name Artitja Fine Art has been renamed *Cultural Connections* to better highlight our existing and continuing efforts in doing just that - making connections between cultures to enhance knowledge and acceptance through the medium of art – a natural and enticing avenue.

Our recent exhibition held at the Atwell Gallery in Alfred Cove, joined Noongah, Ngaranyin, Worora and Wunumbul people with guest weaver Seiji Konishi from Kyoto, Japan, and of course the many guests in our multicultural audience . Above is the story in pictures.

Weaves and Workshops...



Weaves by Janine McAullay Bott and Seiji Konishi.
Weaves are for sale. Photos: Kandi Terrar

The weaving component to the exhibition received a lot of interest, particularly the collaborative aspect and the workshops.

Janine McAullay Bott, Nyoongah Bush Sculptor and Mr Seiji Konishi, head of the Kawashima Textile School in Kyoto in Japan, spent four months collaborating



on a weave which was unveiled on opening night. Mr Konishi insisted he wear the weave – which was a full size Samurai costume, particularly as his ancestors were Samurai's. For enquiries regarding the costume, which is for sale, please contact info@artitja.com.au.

Weaving workshop – Sunday July 27

Such was the interest in the workshops that we are currently planning an afternoon workshop with Janine McAullay Bott on Sunday 27 July. Please email info@artitja.com.au for details if you are interested in attending.

Interview in WA Business News: Culture Corner

www.wabusinessnews.com.au

The WA Business News is an independent weekly subscription newspaper full of news and information which has a weekly feature entitled Culture Corner. I was asked to submit answers for a



Q & A article which was published in the April 3 edition. It may be of interest... Due to copyright considerations I can't use their photograph, but have added one of ours! Here is the interview (slightly edited for space reasons...)



Name: Anna Kanaris

Organisation and role: Artitja Fine Art, Director

Number of years in the role: 4 years

1. **Describe - in one sentence - a day at work.** I try and achieve as much as possible every day. That includes dealing with the multitude of tasks it takes to put on an exhibition, administration, deal with emails and at the end of the quarter the BAS Statement.

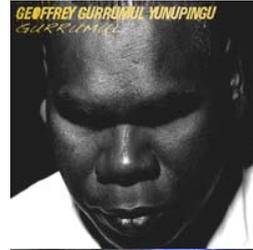
2. **What is the best piece of advice you can give someone to motivate a team (whether it is a big or a small team)? If you are self employed / work alone, how do you keep motivation going for yourself?** I work for myself so to keep motivated and connected I am on the Board of our national industry body AIATA (the Australian Indigenous Art Traders Association), I am constantly in touch with my sources be they Art Centres or artists and/or their agents in remote communities, read journals and attend industry events such as the annual Telstra Indigenous Art Awards and Desert Mob in Alice Springs
3. **What was the most challenging event in your career? How did you overcome the difficulties? What did you learn from it?** Making the decision to leave an established career as a radio producer and journalist to purchase a small Indigenous Art and Craft business at the Fremantle Markets which we owned for 10 years. I learnt that I could do as well in retail at which I had no experience in as I did in my radio career and that if you have vision and determination (and maybe a little madness) you can achieve your dream.
4. **What is the main quality are you looking for within your team members? (Besides artistic skills if relevant)** A creative mind, good communication and decision making skills, honesty and integrity I think are very important.
5. **What's best measurement of your performance, and can you name a highlight in your career?** Seeing people in the audience at one of our Desert Dreaming series of exhibitions moved to tears when Utopian artist Gloria Petyarre whom we'd flown over for opening night "sang" her painting to the audience. It was a highly successful exhibition. The highlight was that the success was both in reaching people and financial.
6. **How do you deal with egos in your workplace?** Partly by leaving the conventional workforce as I did!
 Luckily the only ego's I work with now are mine and my partner Arthur's. We live and work together well so its not too much of a problem.
7. **Is there an organization/business model that you strive to achieve/reach? What is it?** I don't come from a business background which is definitely an obstacle, and in terms of business models – our accountant keeps insisting we develop a Business Plan. I think my model runs on instinct and observation. I strive for the best.
8. **What are the specific hurdles that you meet on a daily basis in your sector? How do you deal with them?** As a home-based business operating by appointment only outside of our twice a year exhibition schedule the greatest hurdle is getting the phone to ring with appointments. Remarkably however, we do have a steady flow.
9. **Who is someone that you dream to work with?** I think I work with them – some of Australia's best known Indigenous artists and people whom I respect working in the industry.
10. **What is your favorite hobby?** Yoga – I love it but don't do enough of it.
11. **Which personality inspired you the most throughout your career?** I can't think of one personality. I am constantly inspired by creative and positive people I come across, both in the professional and artistic world.
12. **Who has influenced you personally?** My father – Rokos. He was a master upholsterer and ran a home based business. He has passed away but is with me every day, motivating me in business and in life.
13. **What were you doing before your current position?** Radio Producer, Journalist, Researcher.
14. **What is your education background?** Bachelor of Arts: Communication Studies; Graduate Diploma in Journalism, both at Murdoch University.

Feature Artist: Leah Umbagai



It was obvious I wasn't alone in seeing Leah Umbagai as a bright shining light at our last show. Leah, who you may have seen interviewed on Channel 10 speaking about the works in the exhibition, is in her 30's and very keen to create awareness about her

culture and pass on her ancestral stories to both the younger people in her community, and to the wider audience. She is a very talented artist who I think has a great future ahead of her. The works pictured here are an example of her versatility and style. For enquiries on any of the pieces shown, please call 0418 900 954 or email info@artitja.com.au .



Photograph : Anna Kanaris

**Must Have Music:
Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu**

Last August in Darwin at the annual Telstra Indigenous Art Awards special guest of the evening Geoffrey Gurrumul Yunupingu (pictured above) sang straight to the heart and soul of all those present. I have been looking out for his CD ever since that time and now it is here! I urge you all to rush out and buy a copy if you haven't done so already. It has already become a hit, and the ex Yothu Yindi and Saltwater Band star has carved out a big name for himself. Fantastic!

**Must have Jewellery:
Carved Pearl Shell Wandjina**



These beautiful hand carved Wandjina pearl shell pendants are exclusively available in Perth from Artitja Fine Art. They are carved by Leah Umbagai and Donny Woolgoodja.

New stock is now in. For enquiries please call 9336 7787 or 0418 900 954.

Must have Paintings: Directors choice...

A few of my current favourites:

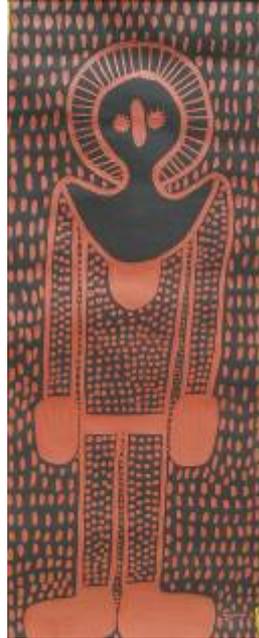


This is a truly beautiful piece by Gloria Petyarre – whose leaves on the ground paintings are still enticing many. Although those paintings do hold beauty and grace, Gloria is such a talented artist I tend to seek out her works with a difference. This particular piece is a combination Women's Ceremony and Mountain Devil Lizard. It is 120x90cm, on Belgian Linen and priced at \$4500.



These two Walangkura Napanangka paintings 90x60cm each belong together! They are very complementary and vibrant pieces by Walangkura, both on Belgian Linen, priced at \$2000 each.

We also have a new selection of works by Kalumburu artist Regina Karadada. Various sizes and prices beginning at \$400. Here are a few:



L: *Black Wandjina*
(bringer of the storms) \$800
R: *Jugulimurra*
Wandjina (collector of shells) \$1280

Corporate Gifts

We are being approached more and more by companies and businesses seeking corporate gifts. Recent works purchased have gone to China, Japan, India, USA, UK and Europe.

We provide a quick and efficient service and each purchase is accompanied by appropriate documentation.

Next time you are seeking a gift either corporate or private, send an enquiry either via email info@artitja.com.au or call us to discuss.

What do you think?...a survey to assist us.

A question for WA readers. We would like to gauge how many of you read the Arts Directory listings in *The West* newspaper since it has changed from being in Saturday's paper to Friday's.

We, along with many other Galleries were very disappointed to be shifted to a day where the readership was estimated at around 100,000 less, and the prices

charged for the advertisements were raised.

We wrote to the Editor and the Chairman of the Board to ask for an explanation and to voice our dissatisfaction some months back but did not receive any reply, nor acknowledgement of receipt of our letter.

On that basis we would like to know whether or not advertising on a Friday is effective, and if you have switched to reading the listings on a Friday.

If you would like to comment can you please email us at info@artitja.com.au with your response. This will be much appreciated.

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 (08) 9336 7787 (m) 0418 900 954 or email info@artitja.com.au



Anna Kanaris & Arthur Clarke
ARTITJA FINE ART
May 2008