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**Special Edition – two artists’ works**

**As we swelter through these hot autumn nights** (for WA clients at least) after the coolest summer in almost 50 years, two artists new works I thought I’d show you have sweltered through hot steamy summers – Janelle Stockman from Utopia (Alice Springs has had an unusually long hot summer) and Shirley Purdie – well the Kimberley is always hot in summer isn’t it?

Janelle’s career is slowly and steadily taking off since we were the first in WA to feature her in our Desert Dreamings show in October 2004 .

Artitja has right from the beginning been a very keen supporter of Janelle Stockman Napaltjarri who has expressed several times to me her ambition of becoming a successful artist. Although Janelle spends most of her time living ‘out bush’ and caring for her three young children, she still manages to have an amazing amount of creativity and inspiration left to produce some excellent works.



*Janelle Stockman Napaltjarri 120x90cm*

Janelle experiments with style and colour and this is evident in the two paintings featured here which, if the artist were not named, I’m sure you would agree, could be two



different artists works.

*Janelle at her first solo exhibition in Alice Springs with her grand -ather early Papunya painter Billy Stockman Tjapaltjarri ( photo taken in April 2005)*



*Janelle and myself at her camp in Utopia in June last year*



Janelle Stockman Napaltjarri 120x120cm "Sandhills"

## Shirley Purdie – Willy Wagtail and Stormbird



Shirley Purdie "Willy Wagtail and Stormbird". 100x100cm.

This painting by Shirley Purdie is an addition to our small but growing 'ochre collection' and it is a special painting as Shirley painted this one initially for an auction to raise funds for a disability orphanage in India. Unfortunately, due to bureaucratic processes and difficulties with the project, it never got off the ground.

This painting comes with a tape recording of Shirley describing the story and the reasons behind her motivation for undertaking such a project – primarily that Shirley is the main carer for her disabled adult son. It's a gorgeous story that I have transcribed (as best I could) and here's a little of how it goes in Shirley's words:

*"That sharp hill like part of the dreamtime ... it blow up like a volcano and he special hill that one he give us sign in the early days or any time ...one you know he blow that-a way – but we never know when he blow other we know something happen and also if you don't blow out when we go there to that country, well he make people sick – but if thing like earthquake well that's*

*alright - people won't get sick – that's a special healer – my father country this one .... This painting this story here this side, because of the old lady the grandmother she own that country and mother, dad, grandmother – this old lady – this is a true story this one – not dreamtime – the old lady was digging the bush potato in that country, her country and this little willy-wagtail and the stormbird and they was talking there while she digging and she made up this little song in that country she said (song recited here by Shirley in language) – that means she was saying that two little bird and her they belong to her country, she made up that little song as she was digging and because there was full moon and all that star that day in that country to make em good – that's true story and it from the dreamtime the special country in the story here".*

Shirley Purdie was born on Mabel Downs Station and is the daughter of Madigan Thomas. She worked for many years at the Warmun Post Office and has six children and many grandchildren. She is a well respected law and culture woman amongst her Kitja people.

### Finally...

We hope you have enjoyed reading this 'mini' special edition newsletter and if you would like any further information on the paintings or the artists featured please do so by return email or phone (08) 9336 7787 or mobile 0418 900 954.

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

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