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Newsletter Vol. 12 September 2007

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**Welcome to our September newsletter**

– which I have decided (on the run as I write it) will be largely pictorial – with a little bit of comment from me, updating you with our movements since our last publication in May.

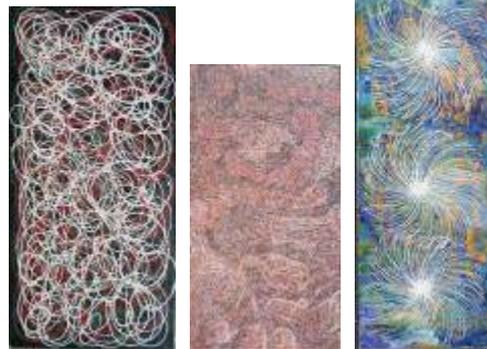
**Desert Gems: Representation of Country – 13-21 October**

Firstly– we are getting ready for our *Desert Gems* show opening on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October. It will be a slightly different format to our normal shows - smaller in size – as it will be held in the small gallery at the Old Royal George building – the room where we normally serve drinks. We have some fabulous works – ready and waiting to hang!

Your invitation will be in the mail shortly.

Established and emerging artists are to be featured. [info@artitja.com.au](mailto:info@artitja.com.au) for more information, or call 08 9336 7787.

Here's a sneak preview:



L-R: Gloria Petyarre, Barbara Weir, Janelle Stockman

And for something a little off-beat – I love this fabulous painting by Kathleen Ngale (Utopia artist) who has decided to add kangaroos to her signature minimalist *Bush Plum* painting.



Kathleen Ngale 115x60cm

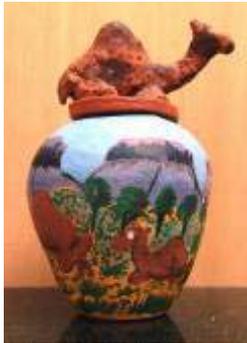
Nyoongar Bush Sculptor Janine McAullay Bott is now a regular exhibitor with Artitja Fine Art. Arthur and I are delighted to represent Janine and she has been busy getting a body of works together for the show, such as this stunning fish trap.



## Hermannsburg Potters

Arthur and I have just returned from a trip to the central desert, where we made some great new contacts and saw a bit more of the countryside. One of the highlights was a trip to Hermannsburg and a visit to the Hermannsburg Potters studio. I have always loved the pots and finally purchased one for my own collection (see below - I have a thing about camels).

If you are also a fan of the Hermannsburg ceramics, please let me know as I can take commissions. Likewise, if you would like to find out about the pots and their history I am happy to discuss.



18cmx10cm

The road to Hermannsburg and surrounding regions has the most delightful scenery – it is Albert Namatjira country after all. Below is a photograph of Mt Sonder, a theme in Albert's paintings of the region. It is also indicative of the scenery painted onto the pots.



The potters have more recently begun to paint with oils. Let me know if you would like to see images [info@artitja.com.au](mailto:info@artitja.com.au)

## New Works

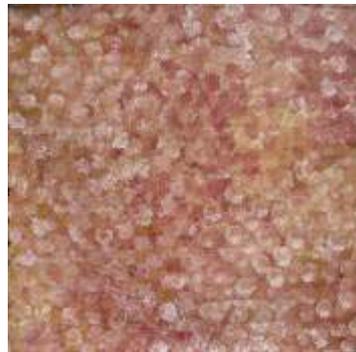
Many of our new works will not be hanging at the Desert Gems show, however they will be available for viewing before, during and after the exhibition. Here are a few:



L: Maisie Campbell Napaltjarri 150x90cm



R: Lucky Morton Knwarreye 130x80cm



L: Evelyn Pultara 90x90cm

R: Walangkura Napanangka 120x30cm



Napanangka 91x61cm

Lorna Brown

## Polly Nelson Nungala

Good news for those of you who were disappointed at missing out on the one Polly Nelson painting we had on show at Desert Dreamings 2007. At the time I explained it was a one-off and that I had sourced the painting but didn't really know a lot about Polly. Well, I'm happy to say that not only do I have more of her paintings, I have met Polly (below) and she is very consistent with her art and happy to take commissions.



*Polly Nelson Nungala and Anna*

The painting here is currently on hold for a client, although I do have two smaller ones available. Polly also does beautiful fine dot work as well – I have an excellent piece not shown here.



*Polly Nelson Nungala  
150x90cm  
ON HOLD*

## Lindsay Bird in Perth for Desert Dreamings in July



What another fabulous show Desert Dreamings: *earth + water* turned out to be, with the

highlight being the presence of senior lawman and respected elder from Mulga Bore in Utopia as our special guest.

Accompanying Lindsay was his nephew Gary, son of well known artist Ada Bird and Lindsay's brother Paddy Bird. Gary enjoyed meeting Janine's Noongar relatives and it was great bringing the desert and coastal cultures together on the night. Lindsay and Gary enjoyed their visit to Perth and Lindsay told us he was very pleased to have been invited particularly for the opportunity to pass on aspects of his culture and stories (see photo).

We have been working with Lindsay since and he has been enjoying expanding on his Mulga Berry

Dreaming designs. It is exciting seeing Lindsay experimenting with new styles, particularly as it is usually the female artists from Utopia who are much more contemporary with their designs and willing to

innovate. The painting featured here is 115x60cm, *Mulga Berry Bush*.



## Update on Tours

Thank you to those of you who responded indicating interest in coming on a desert tour. We are still considering the options and will let you know as soon as we have anything in place. It is a resourcing issue more than anything else at this stage, but something we would love to do with you. It will most likely not be until 2009 as it is of course seasonal.



*Ochre Pits,  
West  
MacDonald  
Ranges –  
just one of  
the scenery  
wonders  
out bush.*

On another tour option, while recently in Darwin for the 2007 Indigenous Art Awards, I had a meeting with a new tour operator company who take tailor made art tours through Arnhem Land and surrounding regions. These range from 1 day to 11 day tours. They are high end tours, with luxury accommodation. If you would like further information or details, please email [info@artitja.com.au](mailto:info@artitja.com.au) or call 08 9336 7787.



*Opening night 2007 Telstra Indigenous & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Aug 10 in Darwin*

## OTHER THINGS...

### **DESART Symposium held in Alice Springs 7 September**

Arthur and I greatly enjoyed attending the Desert Mob symposium in Alice Springs a few weeks ago. Desart is the peak body representing Art Centres throughout the desert regions and the theme was "Art Talks!" - the day was filled with fabulous DVD and forum presentations from a range of art centres showcasing their exhibitions and projects. It was an inspiring day and it was a treat to be in such a forum with many desert artists present.

### **Artitja in Sydney and Melbourne, mid November**

Artitja has been out and about this year with four wonderful central desert trips in which we individually source each piece of art we offer. It is very much our philosophy, as always, to connect cultures by not just showing the art – but to the best of our ability to make meaningful connections. We also look at innovative ways of operating and being as accessible as possible to the public without having a walk-in gallery.

This way of operating frees us up to bring the art to you and we are currently planning our next Sydney and Melbourne trip in mid November. I will be contacting clients shortly with details and to make appointment times, but please contact me prior to that if you would like to discuss an appointment time.

Don't forget to check out our website for updates [www.artitja.com.au](http://www.artitja.com.au)

***That's it...*** we hope you enjoyed reading our latest newsletter and hope to see you at our Desert Gems show – if you can't make the show, make an appointment to visit our home gallery.



Happy Grand Final!

**Anna Kanaris & Arthur Clarke**