

# ART

# MOB

## Aboriginal Fine Art

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### Aug / Sept '08



### Telstra Art Award

Well, you have probably read the various articles about this years Telstra – the 25th Silver Jubilee National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award. The winners were well deserved and it was wonderful to see the matriarch of the Western Desert Makinti Napanangka win the overall award. It's a shame that 7 community art centres boycotted the event and withdrew significant potential winning pieces. Were the artists consulted? Did the issues have any relevance? The remaining 117 final pieces ranged from being sublime to weak. Clearly artistic merit fell short of unstated judging criteria. Let's see what happens next year! Dennis Nona's winning print features.



### Mick Quilliam Table

Dolphin frenzy under glass, set in a Huon pine slab table forms local Tasmanian Aboriginal artist Mick Quilliam's latest work. He only makes one a year and this one's fantastic!

### Bill Harney

Bond University on the Gold Coast recently hosted Bill Harney for a lecture and presentation of his 2006 classic painting Imulun to the Law faculty and guests. As a result Bill has agreed to be artist-in-residence next January to paint a similar work for Bond. Maybe this law painting will create ongoing discussion regarding recognition of indigenous law.

### Travels

Euan's travels meant that Pink 2008 continued into August and this newsletter combines news from 2 months. Europe called for 3 weeks in July and a visit to the Musee du Quai Branly in Paris was that trips only art related activity. A most impressive building and oceanic art and culture display. Sadly the new Aboriginal art that forms the fabric of the administration building is mostly closed to the public. August's travels included the Gold Coast, Darwin and Groote Eylandt.



### New exhibitions

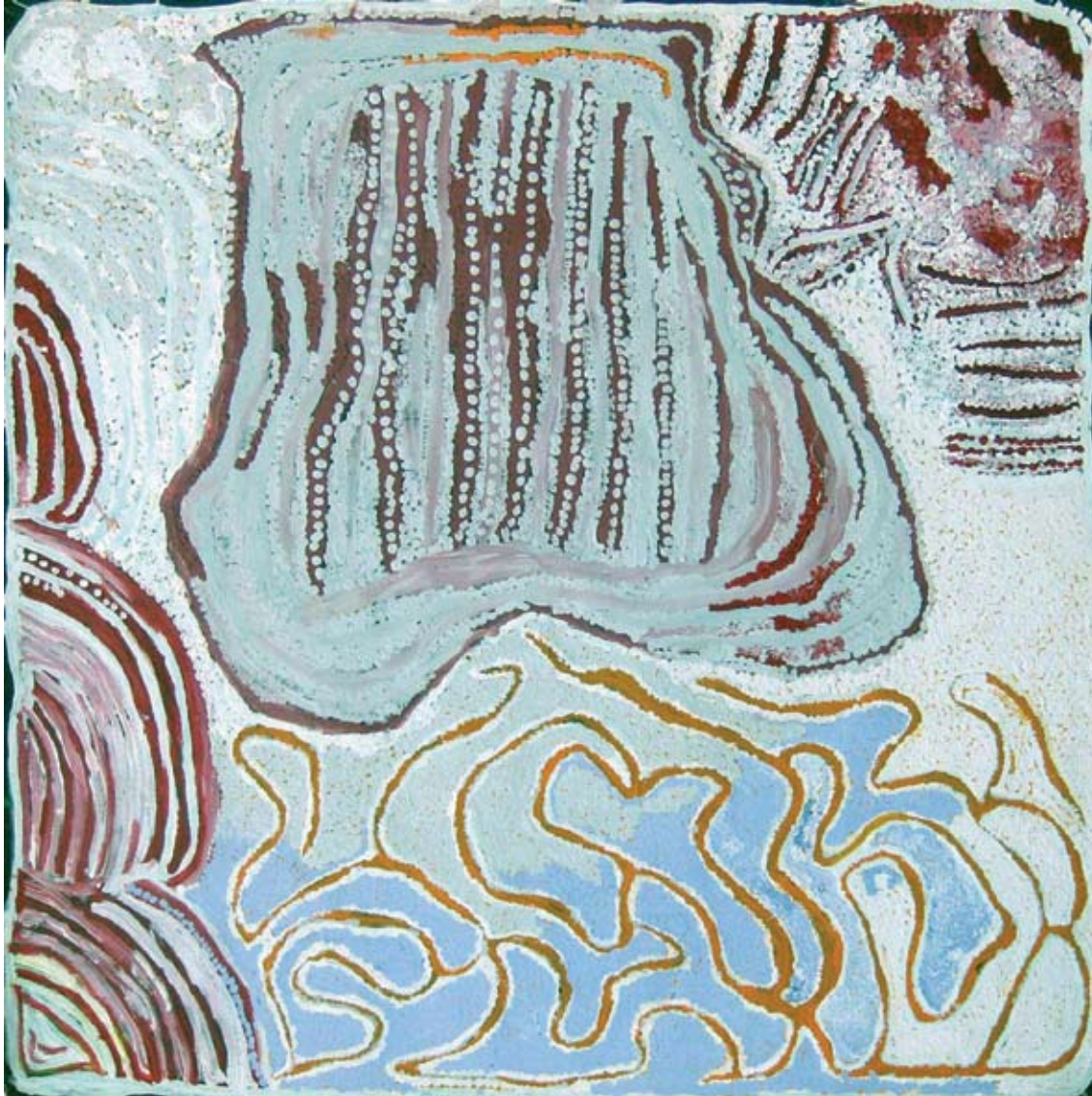
Spring will burst alive with Gloria Petyarre's big bold brushstroke paintings of Bush Medicine. These paintings are truly beautiful and well worthy of any contemporary art collection. Get in quick – they are up on our web site already. October's exhibition is Eylandt to Island and creates history in that it's the very first group commercial gallery exhibition of Groote Eylandt art works outside of the island. Abel Tasman would be proud having named both islands in 1642/44. A powerful collection of Warlpiri works from Warlukurlangu Artists in Yuendumu will tantalize you in November.

### Auction Houses/Carpet Baggers

Did you watch Four Corners trial by media of Rod Menzies? To add sensation carpet bagging made the talking point finale! Serious critics including Nicholas Rothwell now contend that some of the best works are now created outside of community art centres. It's a pity that this area tends to be wholly labeled derogatorily. I think we are now getting back to judging and choosing art for purchase on its artistic and cultural merit – not petty politics.

Book now for September's  
Introduction to Aboriginal art class  
7pm Thursday September 18. It's free!

# New works from Kayili Artists at Patjarr in the Gibson Desert



AM 5876/08 Pulpurru Davies *Kiwarr* 2008 Acrylic on linen 1020 x 1020mm \$7000  
Kiwarr is shown in the centre of the painting. Pulpurru's family used to dig for water at this site. The water is sometimes very deep under the sand and all the family would have to help dig. One person could be down the hole passing a wooden dish above their head to someone outside to throw the sand clear. Pulpurru has painted this country after big rain and there is a wash away funnelling of water to this slight depression. Nearby there are caves made by a ninu (bilby) digging for minga (ants). Other rockholes that are Pulpurru's family water sites are also shown, her birth place Yankaltjunku, Nyukurda and Mirra Mirra, where one of Pulpurru's sons was born.

AM 5875/08  
Neville McArthur *Yawilura* 2008  
Acrylic on linen 1020 x 1020mm \$5500  
Yawilura is the name of spinifex country and the tall seed stems that grow from the spinifex grasses. Mr McArthur has painted the Yawilura of his fathers country, the country of his younger days south west of Warburton.



AM 5874/08  
Dora Lane *Wanarn* 2008  
Acrylic on linen 1020 x 1020mm \$5500  
Dora Lane has painted the Seven Sisters around Wanarn Community.

