



Aboriginal Fine Art

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Art Mob is a proud small business  
sponsor of the Friends of the TMAG



## FEBRUARY 2004 NEWSLETTER

### Maningrida mats

5 pandanus fibre mats made by women artists from Maningrida have been consigned to the gallery. They date from 1964 or 1965. There are 4 mats of 1.2m diameter at \$640 each and 1 mat of 1.1m diameter at \$400. The weaving technique is superb.

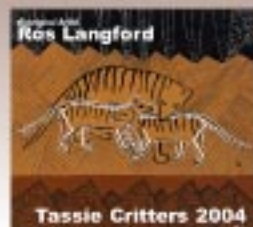


### Bill Harney's residency

Yidumduma Bill Harney painted and entertained visitors in the gallery from Jan 22 to Feb 2. His paintings all link through the creation stories from his Wardaman country, 250km south west of Katherine in the Northern Territory. This was a very special opportunity to meet this great man. Signed copies of both of his books *Born Under the Paperbark Tree* and *Dark Sparklers* are available. The *Sky Boss Nardi* exhibition and his paintings are all now on our web site at [www.artmob.com.au](http://www.artmob.com.au). Three of his works are featured on the reverse of this newsletter.

### Calendars now \$5

Yes, we've got some of the Tassie Critters 2004 calendars left. Free postage anywhere in the world. Grab them while you can! Just contact the gallery whichever way suits you.



Colours of Country 2002

### Anjolu Heather Umbagai

In the pre Christmas rush maybe you missed Anjolu's exhibition *Slowly the Horizon Unfolds*. Local art critic Joerg Andersch stated "This exhibition shows contemporary Aboriginal painting at its best" and went on to rank her emergence along with Mark Rothko, Robert Motherwell and Josef Albers. Revisit the paintings under "schedule" on the web site as these works won't last at these prices. Euan firmly believes that Anjolu is a sleeping giant whose early works will be sought after for many years.

### Two Senior Men - Kudditji Kngwarreye & Barney Ellaga

A very special exhibition of contemporary paintings by these two 75 year old artists launches on Thursday February 19. Kudditji is Emily Kame Kngwarreye's younger brother and it was him who taught her to paint the splodgy style that gave her the recognition of being Australia's #1 female Aboriginal artist. He now paints landscapes of his country in Utopia in this vibrant and almost cosmic style as a tribute to his sister. In contrast, landscapes of South Eastern Arnhem Land are presented by artist Barney Ellaga whose snakeskin technique of painting stands by itself. These works can be previewed in the gallery or on the website. Enjoy the richness of these works.

### Introduction to Aboriginal art classes

Following the success of a TAFE Adult Education course last year gallery director Euan Hills has offered to run more introductory classes. The next one will be on Thursday February 26. Book now by e-mail or phone. The fee is \$25 or a good bottle of wine.

## New works by Bill Harney painted in residence at Art Mob 2004



1 AM 1549/04

Bill Harney Bundalung (Sugar Leaf) Dreaming 2004  
Acrylic & natural ochres on canvas 1220 x 1525mm \$9950

Bundalung was made by bats. Bats went and picked up flower from bloodwood tree - the honey part - and put it beside him in the leaf and they sang it and then honey went white and melted into the leaf. It's called Bundalung. All them circles we call Woorelyyell - it means he's hanging in the leaf in the bloodwood tree. That's Bundalung Dreaming - sugar leaf. Wardaman people collect the sugar leaf, break the leaf onto a cloth and leave it to dry for half an hour. When the leaf starts to get dry a bit you pick up a dry branch and shake it and all the sugar fall off into the cloth. And then you put it together in a big bowl. Eat it straight out like a muesli bar or in a dish with milk like porridge. Break a piece, put him in tea - that's your sugar.



2 AM 1551/04

Bill Harney Gorrondolmi (Rainbow Serpent) Dreaming 2004  
Acrylic & natural ochres on Galacia linen 1275 x 1840mm  
\$15000

Gorrondolmi - he made the water and were the first people in the country. His 2 eyes make the spring bubble up and never go dry and he have 2 children Nayubun. He told them to go live in tree and watch the water. When they up top in the tree they sing the water to stay up because the song was passed down from his father and mother - those 2 there. Their headdress they got create the tide - cut a big gorge, made channel all over the country and there are many other children - Gunben - the fruit bats. Every afternoon he unwinds his ginun - dillybag - and he lets the flying foxes go out and feed all night - eat flowers of coolibah tree, paperbark and bloodwood. Breaking dawn he pick up didgeridoo - he blows that didgeridoo and make a very big large sound. The sound he make is like the floodwater running today. When the floodwater is running you can see all the whirlpool because old Rainbow is there moving inside and putting the wave in the water. When the sound of the didgeridoo the flying fox can hear him and they all come home to the camp in a big queue. They go around in circle like a number 6 and he goes into a funnel in the didgeridoo and he goes back to the camp to Ginun - dilly bag - and they space there all day and in the evening he lets them out again. If you bust the Rainbow eye the spring go dry. He looks after the tide and controls the water. "When I go fishing and see flying foxes in the tree we don't fish there - we know Rainbow is there".



3 AM 1552/04

Bill Harney Bumulnurra (Paperbark Coffins) Dreaming 2004  
Acrylic & natural ochres on Galacia linen 1270 x 1160mm  
\$4500

The Grasshopper Lidi made the straw, bound it up and he went up and got ulbun (paperbark), brought it back and sang it. Put all the spiritual songs in the bark - made it round. Then when Old Rainbow (the Rainbow Serpent) died he was the first one buried in paperbark coffin. They took him down and store it in the rock shelter where the paintings are. All the grasshopper held a big ceremony. After they gone back they looked in the night. They saw all the eyes sparkling and glowing. Everyone recognise that it's a burial place and it's Bumulnurra Dreaming place. This painting depicts 6 rainbows. The little wigs are called bulbul - holds the spirits strong. He wears the bulbul and hypnotises you - puts you to sleep. When you go sound asleep Marribena come sit on your head - tells you story in your dream.