

ART

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Aboriginal Fine Art

Euan Hills

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Gallery Visitation

The relocation to Hunter Street 8 months ago has resulted in some interesting outcomes. International visitors continue to grow in number particularly through The Henry Jones Art Hotel alongside and above the gallery. More interestingly, sales to local Tasmanian collectors have grown nine fold. Perhaps it takes a new location to create awareness of not only historic precincts but also our own indigenous art and culture. Do note that the phone number is now 03 6236 9200.

Residencies

To start the gallery's fourth year we will be honoured by a visit from Ronnie Tjampitjinpa early in April. Ronnie is yet another addition to our "artist in residence" programme. Elizabeth Marks Nakamarra will be here in June and November we will host Papunya artists Mavis Nampitjinpa and daughter Sylvana Napanagka Marks. These residencies provide a very important cultural exchange and are opportunities not to be missed. Check under "Schedule" on our web site for planned functions.



Virtual exhibitions

Each month brings a new showing of work in the gallery and the art works physically grace the walls. We have added a new dimension by putting together collections along a specific theme and these virtual exhibitions can be seen on-line from the web home page. The first show is "Naïve but Nice" and includes paintings by Gertie Huddleston, Bessy Liddle, Linda Brodie and Marie Shilling. Of course you are always welcome to visit us in Hobart to see the pieces.



Studio art glass

Sam Juparulla Wickman's exhibition "Ceremony" attracted a great deal of attention and in particular, his paint infused studio glass art works. These are amongst the first expressions of contemporary Aboriginal art in this form. His prowess has been recognised with an invitation to exhibit at Wheaton Village, New Jersey in July. There are some pieces still available from Art Mob.



Art Mob name

Last month's story about the origin of the name generated much comment. Thanks to Yidumduma Bill Harney for that phone call. Bill won the prestigious Brolga Award for Northern Territory tourism recently and to honour him some of his paintings from stock are shown on the back of this newsletter.

The next Introduction to Aboriginal art class will be at 7pm on Thursday March 24. Book ahead to reserve your place.



5 AM 2075/04
Bill Harney *Midgets* 2004
Acrylic & natural ochres on Galacia linen 1215 x 1215mm \$5000

Midgets rolling round. When people go to law place, there is a midget in each corner who make sounds to keep the detainee in place. Grasshopper made tracks for midget. The artist relates that these little men live in the caves and make a repetitive noise like "Gorro Gorro Gorro Gorro". These little men came be seen painted on the rock walls in Bill's Wardaman country.

The son of W.E. (Bill) Harney, the writer and storyteller who became a legend in the North, and Ludi Yibuluyma, a Wardaman woman, Yidumduma Bill Harney had little contact with his father. Born about 1931 he was brought up straddling both heritages, learning the traditional Aboriginal way of life and learning the white man's way. Yidumduma Bill witnessed horrific acts such as cattle station owners poisoning Aborigines and welfare officers seizing part-Aboriginal children. His own sister Dulcie was taken by the authorities and he narrowly escaped the same fate. Years later he had to fight to keep his own sons. Bill has seen the disintegration of the traditional Aboriginal way of life, and the end of the livelihood of stockmen and drovers. "Born Under the Paperbark Tree", Bill's autobiography, tells shocking stories of casual cruelty and violence that sit alongside tales of the Dreamtime, graphic details of the bush tucker of his childhood, and hilarious yarns about drunken drovers, crafty poddy dodgers and miserable publicans. It is the authentic voice of a man living between two worlds, two cultures - a life which he feels has let him come out 'top all 'round'.



AM 2070/04
Bill Harney *Diamond Dove Dreaming* 2004
Acrylic on Galacia linen 610 x 1210mm \$1200

Singing and he make the water come up. If you see a diamond dove in the country and follow the bird it will lead you to water. Bill painted this piece during his residency at Art Mob, Hobart, in November 2004.



4 AM 2073/04
Bill Harney *Oojinga Dreaming* 2004
Acrylic on Galacia linen 550 x 450mm \$600

The story of this painting is in Dark Sparklers. It means ceremony law place and they teach the young ones to dance. The figure to the top right is oodung which means silence. To its left is mulgun which means lie down.

Bottom one is lunguss - it means listen. The 2 kids at the bottom right are called woarayweeya. They have come to learn to dance oojinga. The figure in the middle is called yol-low-yin. He is the dancer teaching young one.

The left one is gee-de-bun - he has learnt to dance and is now going away. The tracks all around are many people's footprints - burr-burr.



AM 2072/04
Bill Harney *Dargnindi (Message Stick) Dreaming* 2004
Acrylic on Galacia linen 550 x 450mm \$600

This painting shows a numbers of message sticks. The top one is dargnindi which means a letter stick. It means come to a meeting. The right hand stick is noorngargna - it means just come. Ulpun at the bottom means decoration - you have to come all dressed up. Mardin at the left is sending word to come. Badardi in the middle is the ceremony or meeting place. The tracks all around are many people's footprints - burr-burr.