

ART

MOB

Aboriginal Fine Art

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May '09



Off to Arkansas

Dennis Nona's Dadu Minaral bronze sculpture received special packing and supervision before leaving with FedEx to the USA. This beautiful turtle piece joined the Pansy Napangardi painting featured in last month's newsletter and 2 of Mick Quilliam's ochre paintings from his Seasons exhibition.



Telstra finalists

Art Mob's 3 submissions for the 26th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards didn't make preselection. However Ros Langford's piece "Homage to the Weavers" sold straight away to a visiting US collector who gave it #1 rating! Mick Quilliam's and Pansy Napangardi's entries feature on the back page along with a painting by Ros Langford similar to her entry and are available for purchase.

New Dennis Nona prints

Leading Torres Strait Islander artist Dennis Nona continues his massively successful exhibition schedule. He'll be here at Art Mob in Hobart in June and we already have most of his range available in stock. View them on our website. We'll give you one of his New York catalogues free with a purchase of any of his prints.



New works from Blackstone

Our April exhibition was somewhat difficult for most viewers. The works shown from the Gibson desert communities of Blackstone and Patjarr were strong, raw and energetic. Despite slow sales we have added some terrific new pieces as Euan reckons this area has huge future. Cliff Reid's son Carlton Isaac Reid's work features. Congratulations to those who purchased paintings.

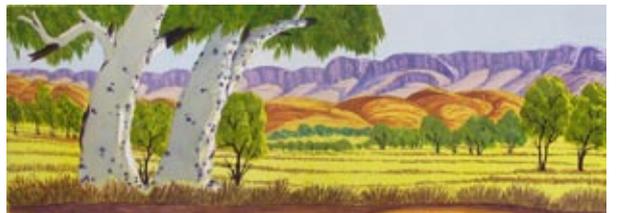
Unethical buying

It's sad to see resurgence in emotive articles relating to ethical sourcing and polarized attitudes so expressed. Artists of any background should have the right to decide how to produce and market their art without their work being deemed unethical if not working "in artist-owned, community based art centres". Where is Uncle Tom? Art Mob is a member of Art.Trade and is bound by their code of ethics.



Karadada paintings

New paintings are in stock from Regina and Lillian Karadada – both daughters of the late Rosie Karadada from Kalumburu. Both paint Wandjina spirit figures but are also painting the Gyorn Gyorn figures that are commonly referred to as the Bradshaw figures.



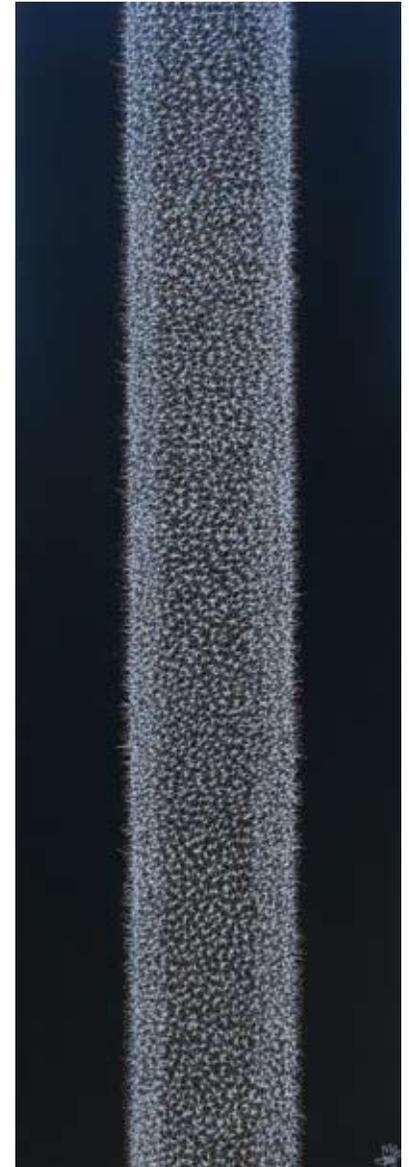
Wonderful watercolours

Many of you would have seen the NGA's travelling exhibition "Seeing the Centre – The art of Albert Namatjira 1902-1959" that toured most states and territories of Australia (but not Tasmania) in 2002/03. We launch "Beyond Battarbee" on May 15 to showcase recent watercolour paintings from Central Australia. 26 selected paintings are already previewing on our website. Rex Battarbee was a visiting artist to the Hermannsburg Mission who sparked Namatjira's interest in painting. This genre of art is continued today by many of the descendants of Albert and his colleagues.

Feature Works



AM 6342/09
Rosalind Langford
Homage to the Weavers 2009
Acrylic on Galacia linen
1260 x 1185mm \$6000



AM 6425/09 Mick Quilliam
Grasstree Flower Spike 2009
Acrylic on cotton 600 x 1830mm \$6000

The Grasstree is a unique form featured throughout the Australian landscape and an exceptionally useful plant throughout Aboriginal Culture.

The plant provides edible starch, shoots and sweet beads of nectar. Flower spikes can be used as fire sticks and the gum/resin can be used as a glue. Honeyeaters and other pollinating birds are easily lured to the flower of the Grasstree.

For me, the Grasstree represents freshness within the landscape, a new start, the beginning of longer days. Their unmistakable and prominent form throughout the Australian bush represents the empowerment of individuals within our culture. Their resilient nature after a burning represents the strength of character of our people.

For me, the Grasstree is a symbol of my home, my country.

Pansy's Surfboard from Alice Dean made the surfboard Pansy Napangardi painted it with her Hailstone Dreaming. So far unsurfed - certainly not on the Todd River! Price \$9000.