

Australian Aboriginal Art

David D. Richard, Private Collection

Mr. Richard began his acquisition of Aboriginal Art in November of 2007, travelling to the remote town of Alice Springs in Australia's Northern Territory. He carried a letter of introduction to Timothy Jennings, founder of *Mbantua* Gallery and the foremost contemporary aboriginal art dealer at the time, from documentary filmmaker, Andrew Pike, of Ronin Films. Mr. Jennings had collaborated with Andrew on the highly regarded film, *Emily in Japan*, and Pike's introduction helped to seed David's education and appreciation for the genre. Guided by Mr. Jennings, Mr. Richard made his first purchases of paintings during this trip.

Later, joined by renowned artist, photographer and native Australian, John Diamond, M.D., their mutual education continued on the lawns of Alice Springs and other regional settlements, where they observed and befriended artists as they painted. Another group of paintings, selected with input from Dr. Diamond, was purchased directly from these artists during half a dozen shared visits to the area over the next decade.

Finding original Kudditji Kngwarreye (Emily's kin brother) paintings in another prominent Alice Springs gallery was a rare treat, and Mr. Richard bought the entire Kudditji stock of this gallery during one trip.

Dr. Diamond guided some intriguing 'experiments' with the local artists, encouraging them to break free of styles that were considered 'traditional' but had actually been taught to them by well-intended missionaries, mostly in the Utopia settlement. Mimicking elements of earlier sand paintings and cave art, these missionary-guided works became the iconic aboriginal 'dot' style. Mr. Richard owns some of these 'breakout' (from the dot style) experiments, including the "Freedom" (a foreign concept to locals) piece listed as 'artist unknown'.

Kudditji Kngwarreye (1938 – 2017)

Kudditji Kngwarreye was an Australian **Aboriginal artist** from the **Utopia community** in the **Northern Territory**. He was the brother (through kinship) of the late **Emily Kame Kngwarreye**. Like his skin sister, he was one of the most prominent and successful artists in the history of **contemporary indigenous Australian art**.

Credit: adapted from Wikipedia



Kudditji had a traditional bush upbringing and worked as a stockman and mine worker. He was also a **traditional custodian** of many important Dreamings, of the land, and men's business ceremonial sites located in his country at Utopia Station.

Kngwarreye painted from around 1986 until 2015. He participated in many international exhibitions and became known for depictions of his **Dreamings**. Their abstract imagery, bold use of color and intuitive interplay with space and form has cemented his name in the Aboriginal art scene. In 2006 Kudditji was named as one of the top 50 most collectible artists in Australia by **Art Collector** magazine.

Kudditji works have gained a national and international following, highly valued for the artist's traditional depictions of his Dreamings as well as his mastery in expressing floating fields of luminous color. Often compared to the great American **abstract impressionist**, **Mark Rothko**, Kudditji was unaware of any similarities. He simply painted his country, his Dreamings, in his own way.

During his younger days and also as a responsible elder, Kudditji frequently took the young boys/men hunting emu, merging tradition with practice as part of their initiation as men. It is from his experience of his people's land that Kudditji painted his "Emu Dreamings" (his traditional totem) and "My Country" works.

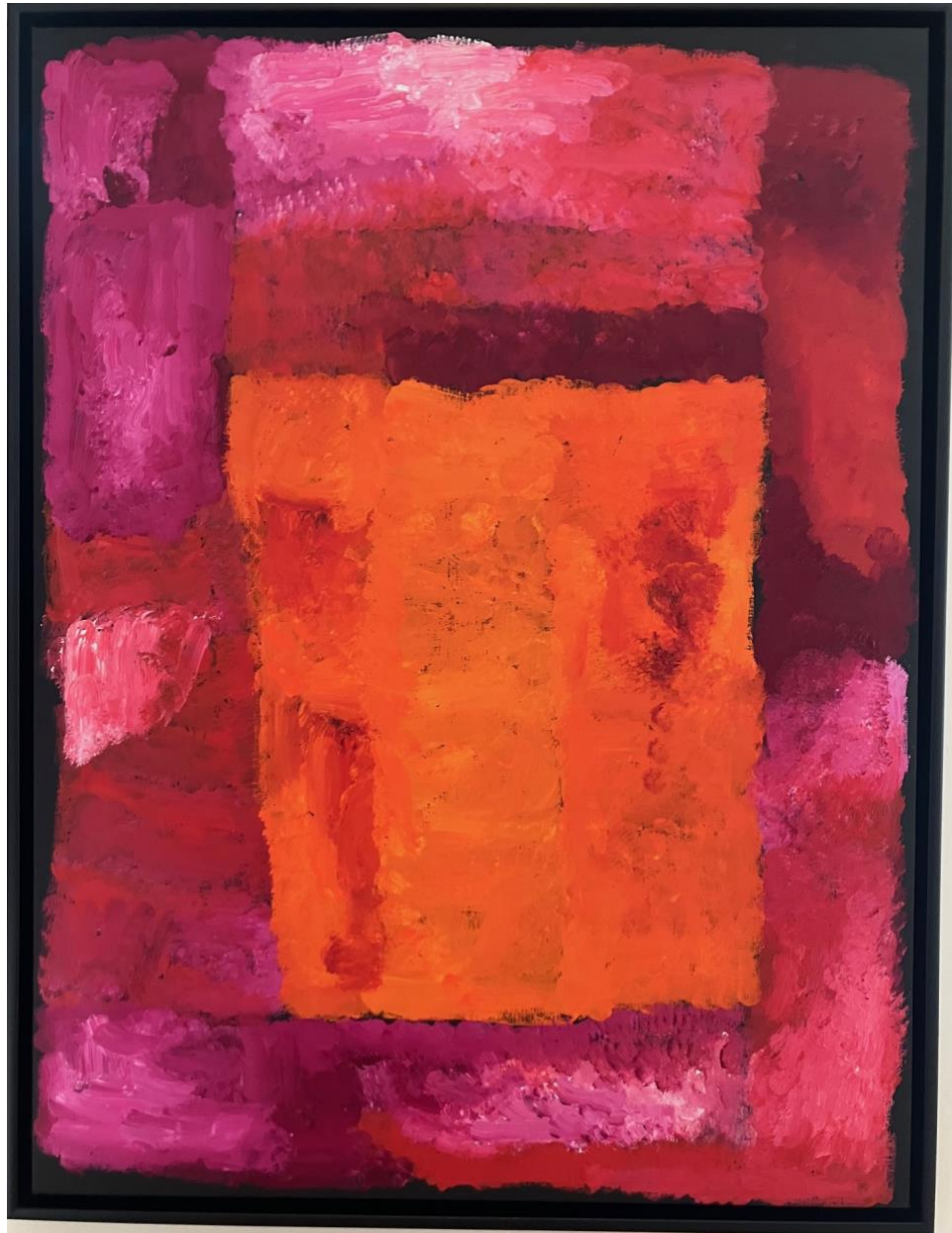
While painting, Kudditji could be heard singing. It was his way of infusing his works with stories of the land; the ancestors, hunts, travels and the food and water of *Anmatyerre* country. As well, the act of painting reminded him of his distant home, and his singing further reinforced his bond with his country.

Kudditji Kngwarreye, Abstract expressionist color field style, six works framed in black.

38" x 49"

37" x 25"

26" x 26", four works









Danny Goodwin, Naïve (“Grandma Moses”) style landscapes/
nightscapes, six works framed in black. Have two more rolled
works unframed. Three of six works shown.

37” x 51”, two works

36” x 61”, two works

36” x 62”, two works



Daniel Goodwin, 1947-Recent Passing



Daniel Goodwin was born at Kenmore Part Station (*Ernabella SA*) in 1947. He was taken away from his family at the age of 5 and sent to a home in Port Augusta, where he went to school until he was 15 years old. He returned to the Red Centre to look for his mother, and it took him 4 years to find her. He had two brothers and one sister, and never saw or met his father.

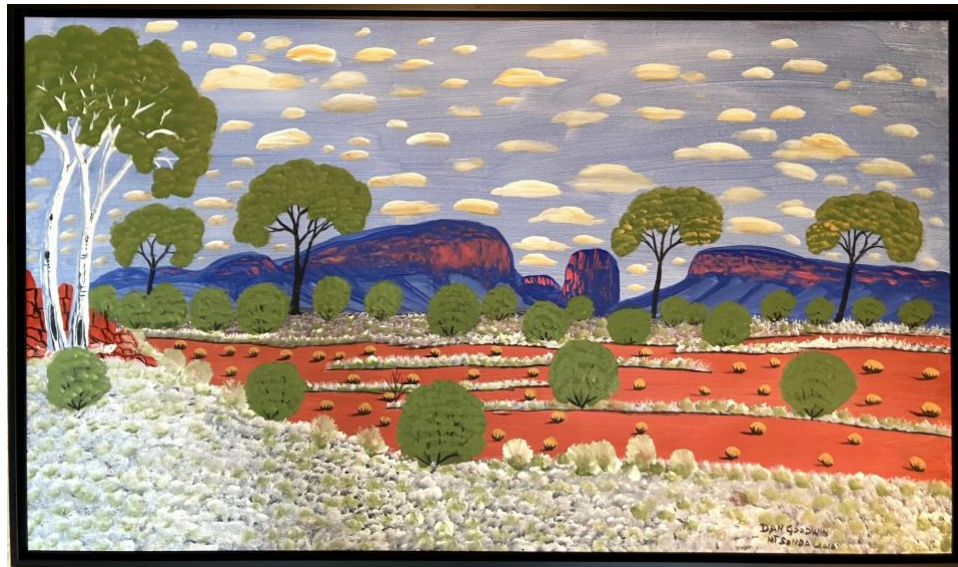
Dan was taught to paint by the sons of Albert Namatjira, Enos, Keith and Ewald, subsequently developing his own landscape style, Naïve art by Western standards.

One of his first awards was the 1968 “Adelaide Aboriginal Artist Award” for his watercolor “Paterson Ranges” WA. Dan has had numerous exhibitions in NSW and won a number of awards, including the “Best Aboriginal Painter of the Year”. In 1991 he also won the “Red Ochre Award”. Included among his award-winning paintings were a number of landscape works and “Goanna Laying Eggs” (a painting in traditional dot style). In 1992, an exhibition was held in Alice Springs where Dan’s paintings were sold by auction to raise funds to send school children on holidays.

Dan travelled widely in Australia, selling his paintings and spreading the knowledge of his homeland region. His paintings have been sold to people from all around the world, with one large painting sold in 2001 to an overseas buyer for \$125,000. An exhibition of Dan’s works was held in Melbourne in 2004, opened by Governor General, Major Michael Jeffrey. One of his works was held by the Australian National Gallery in Canberra ACT.

*This information was supplied directly by the Artist through Australian Aboriginal Desert Art.





June Sultan Napanga (Born 1954)

June Sultan Napanga was born at Neutral Junction, near Barrow Creek in Central Australia. She is a *Kaytetye* speaker. June is an independent artist who takes extreme pride in her artwork. Her paintings are known for their precision for detail. Her paintings all depict traditional bush tucker themes which are associated with Aboriginal culture.

Credit: Central Art Aboriginal Art Store



June began painting in the 1980's after her brother Reg Sultan, an accomplished artist, encouraged her to do so. June is not afraid to use bright colors such as pinks and blues for her backgrounds, creating an interesting mix of traditional depictions with modern colors. June's artworks have been very helpful to schools and educational programs in teaching children about traditional aboriginal food sources and aboriginal iconography.

One of her paintings depicts bush berries, witchetty grubs and honey ants with the women using traditional hunting and gathering implements to collect the bush tucker for the clan. Traditional foods and women's gathering of them are common themes for June.

June is an independent artist who often sells her paintings directly to tourists in Alice Springs but has been working with Central Art since 2007. June enjoys painting and in her own words, "It keep me sane and connected to my culture and country".

June currently lives in Alice Springs with her children. She continues to paint as a hobby and source of income for her family. She continues to be in control of her artwork and career.



June Sultan, Bush tucker representational against bush grass background, six works framed in black.

- 12" x 14.75"
- 13" x 14.5"
- 12.75" x 13.25"
- 12.25" x 13.5"
- 15" x 16"
- 15" x 15.5"



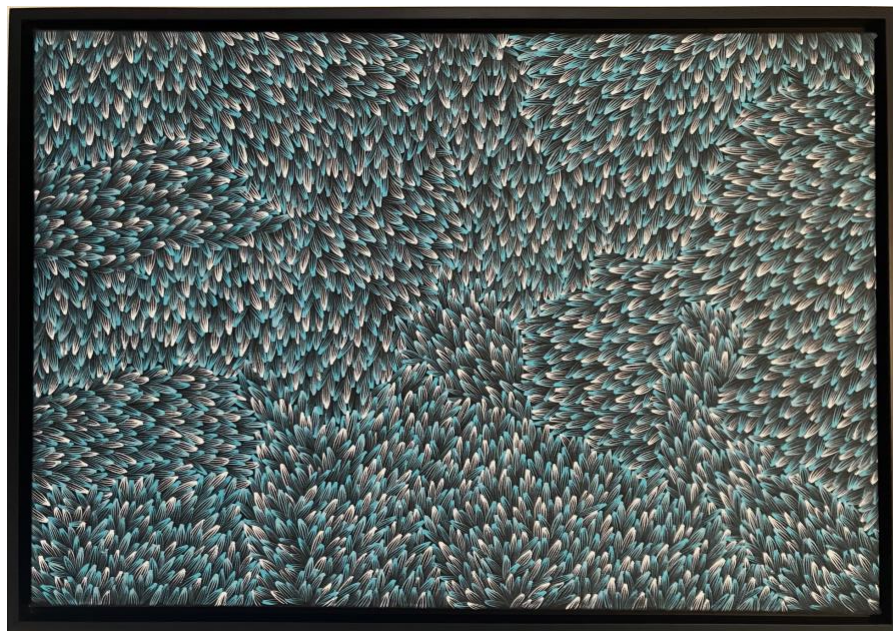






Abie Loy Kemarre, “Bush Hen Dreaming”, framed in black.

26” x 37” (I’d prefer this hung horizontally rather vertically)



Five Clan Painting, traditional themed dot style. Artist TBD.

26" x 37"



“Freedom”, research piece inspired by Dr. John Diamond, Alice Springs artist unknown.

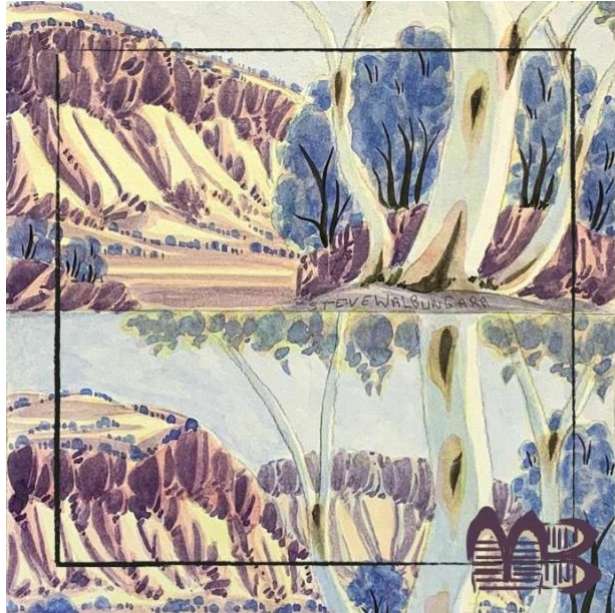
28" x 29"



Steven Walbungara, 1959-2017

Steven Walbungara was born at *Ntaria* (Hermannsburg), West of Alice Springs, in the Northern Territory. He belonged to the Western *Arrernte* (*Aranda*) and *Arrernte* (*Aranda*) language group and painted in the mediums of watercolor on board, acrylic on canvas. His untitled subjects were entirely landscapes painted in the *Hermannsburg style*.

Credit Mbantua Gallery, Alice Springs



Steven grew up at Hermannsburg. Both his parents are deceased, but his father was a *Warlpiri* man and his mother an *Anmatyerre* woman. His family links to the Ronji family at Hermannsburg. His country is around the Ormiston Gorge area.

Steven sat with artists Titus Renkaraka, Linburg Inkamala, Arnulf Ebatarinja and Clem Abbott, his cousin. He would watch them paint, and they would give him tiny boards to experiment with. Slowly, he was taught the Hermannsburg School landscape style of painting.

Collections

Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD

Exhibitions:

2017, *Tjuritja Nana Mara* to Paris (From the good *Tjuritja* to Paris), IDAIA, Paris, France

References:

Iltja Ntjarra Many Hands Art Centre

(2023) *Iltja Ntjarra Namatjira School of*

Art, "<https://manyhandsart.com.au/artist/steven-walbungara/>"

Bush Landscape Watercolor, Steven Walbundgara, in the style of Albert Namatjira, Hermannsburg tradition.

Approx. 17" x 12"



Four Abstracts by Ronnie Bird "Bush Plum", Dolly Mills Petyare (2), and artist unknown, framed in antique gold/black.

13.5" x 13.5", four works



Ronnie Bird Jungala ((1960 - 2016)

Artist: Ronnie Bird Jungala

Region: Utopia

Language: *Arrente*

Subjects and Dreaming:

Mulga Seed, Snake Dreaming and
the Bush Plum Dreaming

Credit: Corroboree Dream Art



Ronnie, married to artist Janet Golder, was son of the famous artist Ada Bird Petyarre. His aunts were also famous desert artists, Kathleen Petyarre and Gloria Petyarre. Ronnie was known to be a gifted artist within the Central Australia Desert community.

His works, which can be found in many private collections in Australia and around the world, are beautifully crafted, vibrant and colorful.

His designs, influenced by the great Desert artists of his Country, are full of symbolism and ritualistic meaning depicting traditions, rituals and ceremonies of his culture as passed on to him by his elders. His main themes are men's ceremonial designs and particularly the Mulga Seed, Snake Dreaming and the Bush Plum Dreaming.

There is no doubt that Ronnie's stunning and extremely well-crafted paintings will continuously become more valuable as they are increasingly sought after by art collectors and art lovers from Australia and worldwide.



Dolly Mills Petyarre (Born 1934)

Dolly Mills Petyarre was born around 1934 at Boundary Bore Outstation in the Utopia Region, north east of Alice Springs. Her language group is *Anmatyerre*. She is widely recognised as one of Australia's leading Aboriginal artists. Her work can be seen in major Australian and international collections.

Text Credit: Red Desert Gallery

Photo Credit: Mbantua Gallery



Dolly, like many of the women from Utopia, started with silk batik in the early 80's. She participated in the book "Utopia - A Picture Story", which included 88 silk batiks from the Robert Holmes a Court Collection. This book helped to confirm the artistic credibility of the artists living in the Utopia region of Australia. Her main painting subjects are Yam Dreaming and Bush Tobacco.

The patterning and vibrant color of Dolly Mills Petyarre's work depicts her native country of *Alhalkere* in the Utopia's region north east of Alice Springs and her most important subject matter is of the "Yam Dreamings". The Yam is one of the most stable types of bush tucker gathered in the region of Utopia. The yam has a complex root system that can spread up to twelve meters from its stalk. The plant has bright green leaves with yellow flowers and branches out over a wide area. It is commonly found in woodland areas and close to a water source.

Collections:

Robert Holmes a Court Collection, Perth

Exhibitions:

1984 The First National Aboriginal Art Award Exhibition, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin

1985 The Second National Aboriginal Art Award Exhibition, Museum and Art





“My Country”, Lucky Morton Kngwarreye, abstract burst pattern, framed in black with white mat.

11.5” x 9.75”



Small Unframed Abstract, Dolly Mills Petyare

8" x 3"



NOTE: Various AU artifacts, rocks, etc. to be included with the exhibition. Also, original photographs of several of the artists, including as they were painting.

Also available: a large selection of original photographs highlighting 'Red Centre' bush landscapes, flora, fauna and geology, as well as ancient Aboriginal cave and rock art, all as contextual and cultural background to the main exhibition.

A comprehensive list of solo and group exhibitions by each artist is available upon request.

Nearly all works framed by Marie Liu, Executive Director of Artery Gallery Coop in Milford, PA.

Following page shows works recently shipped from Australia to supplement the collection. To be added as approved by curator(s).

