



Kudditji Kngwarreye

(Australian, 1928 - 23.01.2017)

My Country #234

Acrylic on canvas
90 x 120 cm / 35.4 x 47.2 inch

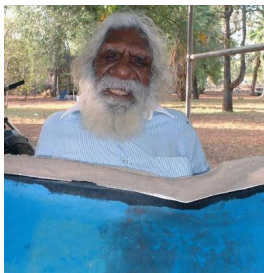
ABOUT

Kudditji is now a traditional custodian of his country and of the Emu story, for which he was responsible in initiating the younger men of his clan. Although not much detail is given about aspects of this initiation, it is generally understood that this involved the practical teaching of hunting the Emu as well as the spiritual story of the Emu ancestors. It is Kudditji's obligation to continue this story and his intimate physical and spiritual knowledge of the Anmatyerre country is what he now transfers onto his canvas.

Kudditji mixes his colours directly onto the canvas, layering his paint into a patchwork formation. Often his works will change throughout the day as different light sources draw out different colours and elements, whilst others recede. It is in this depth that his story of country and the story of the Emu resides, the complexity and vastness of his landscape only accessible in patches as they come to light.

BIOGRAPHY

(Kudditji Kngwarreye)



Kudditji Kngwarreye was born around 1928 in Utopia, a community in the Eastern Desert about 230 km northeast of Alice Springs. He is one of the elders of the Anmatyerre language group and an important custodian of many important Dreamings. Kudditji is one of the first established male artists from Utopia. Kudditji began painting his Emu Dreamings in a precise 'dot painting' style. Later he switched to the more abstract My Country style, consisting of coarse blocks with saturated colors in different tones. The My Country paintings can be seen as a representation of Kudditji's birthplace, whose land and sky throughout changes of day and season are conveyed in shape and color.

Kudditji's more abstract My Country style is reminiscent of the later work of his famous kinswoman Emily Kame. It is not sure who first started painting in this style. Ever since Kudditji began to exhibit his abstract work in 2003, his star steadily rises in the international art world. Due to his deteriorating health, Kudditji was forced to stay and paint in one place (Alice Springs), in the last few years he hardly created new works.

EXHIBITIONS

Solo:

- 2016: Singing Up Country | Kudditji Kngwarreye, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
2016: Kudditji Kngwarreye - A master painter there is only one of him, Mandel Aboriginal Art Gallery, Melbourne
2014: Kudditji Kngwarreye, Japingka Gallery, Perth
2014: Earth + Sky, Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane
2013: Kudditji: Landscapes in the Family Tradition, Booker-Lowe Gallery, Houston, Texas USA
2013: Colours of Dreaming | Kudditji Kngwarreye, Mitchell Fine Art, Brisbane
2013: The Master Returns, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
2011: Kudditji Kngwarreye, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
2011: COLOURFIELD: new paintings, Fireworks gallery, Brisbane
2010: Kudditji Kngwarreye, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
2010: Kudditji Kngwarreye, Palya Proper Fine Arts Alice Springs
2009: Kudditji Kngwarreye: Pastels, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
2008: My Country, Kudditji Kngwarreye, Central Art Aboriginal Store, Alice Springs
2008: 30 Emu Dreamings, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
2008: My Country, Japingka Gallery, Perth
2006: Masterwork, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
2006: My Country, Japingka Gallery, Perth
2006: Two Fields, Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane
2005: Waterhole Aboriginal Art, Danks Street, Sydney
2005: New Paintings, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
2005: Colours in Country, Art Mob, Hobart, Tasmania
2004: My Country, New Paintings, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
2004: My Country, Japingka Gallery, Perth
2004: Waterhole Aboriginal Art, Sofitel Wentworth Hotel Exhibition, Sydney
2003: New Paintings, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
1999: New Paintings, Chapel off Chapel, Melbourne

Group:

- 2018 'East meets West', SmithDavidson Gallery, Okt - Dec, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2018 EXPO Chicago, SmithDavidson Gallery, Chicago, USA
2016: Spoilt for Choice- a director's choice exhibition, Kate Gwen Gallery, Sydney
2015: Signs and Traces - Contemporary Aboriginal Art, Cultural Institute Zamek, Pozan, Poland
2015: From the Vaults - highlights from the Collectors' Gallery, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
2014: Vast Interiors, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
2012: The Colourists: Kudditji Kngwarreye and Lorna Napurrula Fencer, Japingka Gallery, Perth
2013: Sky and Desert, Foundation Burkhardt-Felder Arts et Culture, Switzerland
2010: Utopia: Eastern Anmatyerre Artists, Neo Gallery, Brisbane
2009: Aboriginal Art, Mary Place Gallery, Sydney
2009: Reves Aborigines, Musee Arts et Histoire de Bormes-Les-Mimosas, Bormes-Les-Mimosas, France
2008: From the Air, Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane
2008: Black & White: Inspired by Landscape, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
2006: New Paintings, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
2005: Big Country, Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs
2005: Fresh from the Central Desert, Canberra Grammar School, Canberra
2004: Two Senior Men, Art Mob Gallery, Tasmania
2004: Australian Exhibition Centre, Chicago
2004: Heartbeat - Living Country, Wentworth Hotel, Sydney
2004: Spirit of Colour, Depot Gallery, Sydney
2002: The Contemporaries, Contemporary Artspace, Brisbane
2000: Mia Mia, Aboriginal Art gallery, Melbourne
1999: Chapel Off, Chapel gallery, Melbourne
1992: Tjukurrpa, Museum fur Volkerkunde, Basel, Switzerland
1991: Central Australian Aboriginal Art & Craft Exhibition, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs
1990: Art Dock, Contemporary Art from Australia, Noumea, New Caledonia

COLLECTIONS

- Hank Ebes Collection, Melbourne, Australia
Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, Australia
Macquarie University, NSW, Australia
R. M. Barokh Antiques, Los Angeles, California