Exhibition catalogue

Aboriginal Contemporary and Martumili Artists proudly present

RAWA – A LONG TIME

An exhibition of new works by three of the Western Desert's most senior pujiman artists

Exhibition opens Saturday 29 October 10:00am – 4:00pm 254 Bronte Road, Waverley, 2024



Pujiman is Martu for 'desert born' and the three Martu artists featured in Aboriginal Contemporary's new exhibition are among the last surviving members of the last ever pujiman generation.

In the words of a senior artist at Martumili Artists in the East Pilbara, W.A.: "Pujiman Days are almost gone. There is so much lost but we need to keep sharing to keep it alive."

Pujiman is very much alive in the paintings of internationally-acclaimed artists Bugai Whyoulter and sisters May and Nancy Chapman. Their work depicts the salt lakes, sandhills and waterholes they learnt about as young girls travelling the vast deserts of Martu Country with their parents - moving from one water source to the next as the seasons changed.

Bugai Whyoulter was one of the last Martu people to leave the desert and started painting in her community of Kunuwarritji, near Well 33 on the Canning Stock Route. Bugai learnt her craft from renowned artists and close friends Nora Nungabar and Nora Wompi, now both sadly passed. Bugai is a master of colour, gesture and subtlety, effortlessly transferring an intimate knowledge of her land and its stories to her canvasses. Bugai's work has won many prestigious art awards and is widely sought after by public galleries and private collectors alike.

Nancy and May Chapman lost both their parents when they were young girls and spent many years living on their Country before finally leaving the desert to live at Jigalong Mission. Today, the two sisters are community leaders as well as artists; keeping pujiman tradition, stories and culture alive while advancing the national and international reputation of Western Desert Aboriginal art.

Asked to describe the inspiration for one of her works, Nancy Chapman recalls life as a young girl in the desert: "We walked around here long time. We collected bush tucker here. We collected seeds around here for grinding and making damper. We were walking around here in pujiman days. We were little girls with no clothes."



Cat No: MART22-889 Acrylic on Linen 151cm x 151cm \$10,500.00





Cat No: MART22-890 Acrylic on Linen 151cm x 151cm \$10,500.00





Cat No: MART22-888 Acrylic on Linen 151cm x 151cm \$10,500.00





Untitled

Cat No: MART22-472 Acrylic on Linen 76cm x 121cm \$4,300.00



Cat No: MART22-697 Acrylic on Linen 76cm x 122cm \$3,700.00





Cat No: MART22-1014 Acrylic on Linen 76cm x 122cm \$3,700.00



May Mayiwalku Chapman



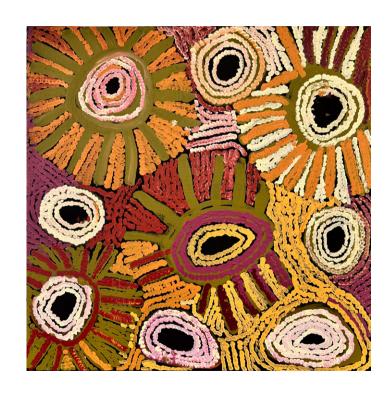
Untitled

Cat No: MART21-416 Acrylic on Linen 91cm x 121cm \$4,500.00

May Mayiwalku Chapman

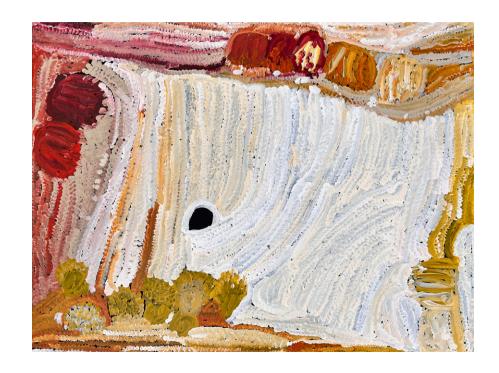


Cat No: MART21-891 Acrylic on Linen 91cm x 91cm \$3,400.00





Cat No: MART22-691 Acrylic on Linen 91cm x 122cm \$4,500.00





Cat No: MART22-1017 Acrylic on Linen 91cm x 61cm \$2,300.00



May Mayiwalku Chapman



Cat No: MART22-857 Acrylic on Linen 91cm x 61cm \$1,700.00



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Please join us for the opening:

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For any enquiries please contact Nichola on 0450 929 183 or nichola@aboriginalcontemporary.com.au