

Exhibition catalogue

Aboriginal Contemporary and Mangkaja Artists present

'MANGKAJA PERSPEX 2020'

An exhibition of stunning new contemporary works
on perspex from **Mangkaja Arts**

27 February – 9 March 2020



ABORIGINAL CONTEMPORARY

Aboriginal Contemporary and Mangkaja Arts are delighted to present 'Mangkaja Perspex 2020'.

We have worked with this iconic East Kimberley art centre for many years and have long recognised them as brave innovators, always pushing the boundaries of both aesthetics and medium. We are therefore delighted to be able to present 'Mangkaja Perspex 2020', Mankaja's only perspex exhibition in Sydney this year.

It won't be the first time Sydneysiders have been captivated by Mangkaja's stunning acrylic on perspex works. Last year, the breakthrough medium received critical acclaim as part of the MCA's prestigious 'The National' exhibition.

'Mangkaja Perspex 2020' brings works from senior Mangkaja artists' Sonia Kurrarra, Daisy Japulija, Ngarralja Tommy May and Penny K Lyons, along with emerging artists Dorothy Forrest and Jennifer Dickens. Every work is an exquisite example of each artist's highly-personalised style, layering a full palette of acrylic colours on perspex with the bold mark-making for which Mangkaja artists are renown.

The paintings share important stories of country from the heart of the Great Sandy Desert through to the rich river country of Fitzroy Crossing.

At Aboriginal Contemporary, we delight in bringing you the very best of contemporary Aboriginal art, and we are sure this stunning exhibition, that has taken over year to put together, will not disappoint.

Warmest, *Nichola*

Sonia Kurarra

Martuwarra

Cat No: MAN341/19

90cm x 90cm

Acrylic on polycarbonate

\$5,500



Daisy Japulija

Billabongs

Cat No: MAN328/18

90cm x 60cm

Acrylic on polycarbonate

\$3,400



Daisy Japulija

Billabongs and springs

Cat No: MAN95/18

70cm x 90cm

Acrylic on polycarbonate

\$3,650



Daisy Japulija

Billabongs

Cat No: MAN28/19

60cm x 60cm

Acrylic on polycarbonate

\$2,600



Ngarralja Tommy May

My Country

Cat No: MAN311/18

120cm x 60cm

Acrylic on polycarbonate

\$4,100



Sonia Kurarra

Martuwarra

Cat No: MAN244/19

120cm x 60cm

Acrylic on polycarbonate

\$4,900



Dorothy Tjikilim Forrest

Mix colors

Cat No: MAN314/19

90cm x 60cm

Acrylic on polycarbonate

\$1,450



Penny K-Lyons

Jila and Jiji

Cat No: MAN263/18

60cm x 60cm

Acrylic on polycarbonate

\$1,200



Ngarralja Tommy May

Kurtal - Living water

Cat No: MAN446/18

60cm x 60cm

Acrylic on polycarbonate

\$2,300



Ngarralja Tommy May

Warla – Flat Country after burning

Cat No: MAN445/18

60cm x 60cm

Acrylic on polycarbonate

\$2,300



Sonia Kurarra

Martuwarra

Cat No: MAN462/18

60cm x 120cm

Acrylic on polycarbonate

\$4,900



Jennifer Dickens

Animals eat all kinds of things

Cat No: MAN313/19

90cm x 60cm

Acrylic on polycarbonate

\$1,450



Daisy Japulija

Born 1948, Noonkanbah, Western Australia. Lives and works Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia. Walmajarri, Western Desert region.

Daisy Japulija grew up at the remote community of Yungngora (Noonkanbah) in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia. She initially began painting at Yakanarra Adult Education Centre, where the main emphasis was teaching children, instruction in language and culture, and teaching people about painting. Those attending were also taken on excursions to the local waterholes and rivers. Japulija visited Kurlku, her mother's Country, in the Great Sandy Desert only once in her life, but the billabongs and desert landscape of this place became the source of memory and motif that she has subsequently incorporated into her work.

Sonia Kurarra

Born 1952, Noonkanbah, Western Australia. Lives and works Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia. Walmajarri, Western Desert region.

Sonia Kurarra grew up in river country at Yungngora (Noonkanbah), alongside Daisy Japulija. She began painting at Mangkaja Arts, Fitzroy Crossing, in the early 1990s, working mostly on paper. Since 2008 Kurarra has worked predominantly on canvas. She held her first solo exhibition in 1990, and has featured in many group and solo shows since then. Kurarra paints the sandy billabong country along the stretch of the Fitzroy River that runs directly behind the community, including gapi (fish), parrmarr (rocks), ngurti (coolamon) and karli (boomerang). She paints and repaints her custodial Country in abstracted colours and shapes, revealing her understanding of gestural narrative.

Ngarralja Tommy May

Born 1935, Yarrnkurnja in the Great Sandy Desert. He dances and sings Kurtal, a ceremony relating to the main jila [living waterhole] in his country. He is also a painter and printmaker.

Ngarralja is fluent in Wangkajunga, Walmajarri and English and writes Walmajarri. He is a founding member of the Karrayili Adult Education Centre where he learnt to read and write his own language and English.

Ngarralja is an important person for art and culture in Fitzroy Crossing. He is a former Deputy Chairman of Mangkaja Arts and former Chairman of Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre (KALACC). Ngarralja was also an executive for twenty one years on the Association of Northern Kimberley and Arnhem Aboriginal Artists (ANKAAA) Board of Directors.

Ngarralja lives with his children at Mindi Rardi Community in Fitzroy Crossing.

Nyangarni Penny K Lyons

Born 1932, at Wanywurtu under a tutujarti [desert walnut] tree. She grew up there with her family of one father, two mothers, one brother and two sisters. There is a rock hole with spring water at Wanywurtu where Nyangarni remembers going walkabout for goanna and pussycat [feral cat].

Nyangarni's family and other groups migrated north to the cattle station country surrounding the Fitzroy Valley. When they left the desert she was a girl in her early teens. During the journey she lost her mother's sister, then her father and mother. Nyangarni became distressed about losing her parents and wanted to keep looking for them. Her brother kumanjayi [deceased] Pijaju got angry with her and left Nyangarni and her little sister at nearby Milidjidee and kept going.

Nyangarni's beautiful paintings show the traditional waterholes and hunting grounds of the Great Sandy Desert where she and her family lived up until the early 1950s.

'MANGKAJA PERSPEX 2020'

Please join us for the opening night:

Thursday 27 February, 6pm – 8pm
254 Bronte Road, Waverley 2024



ABORIGINAL CONTEMPORARY

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