Media Release

March 2012

Ngaanyatjarra
Art of the Lands
Tim Acker and John Carty

The Ngaanyatjarra Lands have a unique place in the art history and art story of remote Australia, and the past decade has seen even greater diversity and stunning developments in their artistic practice.

Gloriously illustrated with 265 images, this book documents the six Indigenous-owned art centres that make up the Western Desert Mob group: Warakurna, Papulankutja, Tjarlirli, Kayili, Maruku and Tjanpi.

The complexity, richness and interconnectedness of people and art in the Western Desert is made clear in the book, as it presents new histories of creative and artistic practice.

Ngaanyatjarra combines the aesthetics of an art catalogue with the rigour of an art history, and includes stories of Aboriginal people’s perspectives on their own artistic heritage.

Art histories of the Western Desert are dominated by the story of the genesis of desert painting at Papunya; however within the last decade there has been a major realignment of artistic practice, now documented in Ngaanyatjarra.

ABOUT THE EDITORS

Tim Acker has worked with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists, their enterprises and their communities for more than 12 years. He has been involved in numerous projects, including the Yiwarra Kuju: The Canning Stock Route exhibition at the National Museum of Australia. Tim is currently undertaking an extensive research program into the ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Economies’.

John Carty is an anthropologist and curator who works with Aboriginal artists around the Western Desert, the Pilbara, Kimberley and Central Australia. He was the principal researcher on the Canning Stock Route project that lead to the groundbreaking exhibition Yiwarra Kuju: The Canning Stock Route at the National Museum of Australia. John is currently Research Associate at the Australian National University on a project about bringing Aboriginal artefacts from the British Museum back to Australia.

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