Dear Friends of REDOT GALLERY,

In Issue 2009-05:

WHAT'S ON...AND COMING UP!

THIS MONTH'S ARTIST PROFILE:

NEWS: LFS EXHIBITION, IKUNTJI NEW WORKS ON PAPER

ANNOUNCEMENTS: LABOUR DAY OPENING, CORY SURPRISE

WHAT'S ON...

MAY

FROM DESERT TO SALTWATER COUNTRY

The unique and colourful works from the Yulparija and Mangala artists of Bidyadanga are featured in our current exhibition: “From Desert to Saltwater Country”.

Bidyadanga is located 2 hours south of Broome, in Western Australia and this group of artists has been living by the coast since the heavy drought of the 1960’s forced them to abandon the traditional life of the Great Sandy Desert.

The artworks on show reflect their dual experience: the stories and iconography of the desert represented in a subdued palette of the coast.

This small group of artists has been attracting the attention of the art word for its originality and strong cultural content.

Many pieces have been sold but we still have some stunning examples of the work of Weaver Jack, Lydia Balbal, Jan Billycan, Margaret Baragurra, Susie Gilbert, Mary Meribida, and Donald Moko.

We also have a copy if the documentary “Desert Heart” which show the trip taken by a group of Bidyadanga artists to the desert after about 40 year in exile. A touching film worth watching!

The exhibition runs until till Saturday 16th May 2009.

COMING UP...

View “From Desert to Saltwater Country” Works
“OCHRE DREAMING-STORIES FROM THE EAST KIMBERLEY”

The ReDot gallery is proud to welcome back the natural ochre artworks of the famous Warmun Art Centre. After a very successful 1st exhibition in June 2008, the unique canvases of this Kimberley community will again be gracing the walls of the Gallery.

Warmun Artists use traditional ochre and natural pigments instead of acrylic paints, which produces works with incredible texture and colours that are the essence of the land depicted. The Artists make their own paints and mix ochres into a full range of colours.

Warmun, home to leading indigenous artists Rover Thomas, Queenie McKenzie, Hector Jandany and Jack Britten has long been recognized as a ‘trend setter’ in the bustling world of modern Aboriginal art. The art centre, established in 1998, has quickly become a “must see” stop on any outback journey.

The dream of the older artists was to open an art centre at Warmun to provide greater opportunities for the development of younger Gija artists, as well as opportunities to communicate their culture to tourists in the region.

Over this decade, and especially in the last few years, the fruit of the community’s hard work has started to bear wonderful fruit. Senior artists have studiously been passing on to the current generation of artists many of the traditional stories and painting techniques of the Ngarrangkarni (Dreaming).

This show will showcase the works of renowned artists Lena Nyadbi, Mabel Juli, Patrick Mung Mung, Shirley Purdie, Jock Mosquito, Madigan Thomas, Gordon Barney, Mick Jawalji, Churchill Cann and Betty Carrington alongside new talents Roseleen Park, Lorraine Daylight, Roberta Daylight, Gabriel Nodea, Benita Everett, Letoya Evans.

The exhibition opens on Wednesday 20th May 2009 and runs till Saturday 27th June 2009.

LYCEE FRANCAIS SINGAPOUR SHOW

ReDot Gallery welcomes the “youngest” artists yet to exhibit at 11 Everton Road.

ReDot Gallery recently had the pleasure to host an Aboriginal Art Project show for the students of the Lycée Français de Singapour (LFS), the 1st time ever that we have embarked on such an event.

Artworks produced by the students of classes GS2 and GS3 were displayed side by side with the works of the Martumili Art Centre, which inspired the initial project.

When Nancy Taylor, Yanjami (Peter Rowlands) and Yikartu Bunba visited Singapore this February, for the opening the 1st international show of Martumili Artists, the LFS student had the privilege of meeting them and learning a little about the lives of Aboriginal people in the harsh outback terrain.

On April 4th and 5th, ReDot Gallery was packed with 43 very excited ‘young’ artists, accompanied by very proud
parents and siblings to appreciate this wonderful cross-cultural accomplishment.

Congratulation to all involved – the event was a wonderful success and bridges cultures that until recently have never crossed paths. Well done to the children, teachers and all involved. We will hopefully be following this up with other events to further establish links between the Australian outback and children living in Singapore.

View the masterpieces and more photos of the event

Parents of LFS students enjoying their kid’s creations.
**IKUNTJI NEW WORKS ON PAPER**

Ikuntji Art Centre began as a women’s only art centre in 1992 under the guidance of a young and idealistic Marina Strocchi. The women whom had previously assisted their husbands with their painting throughout the 1970s decided to set up the Ikuntji Women’s Centre (as it was known initially) when they realised there was a strong desire to paint their own stories and needed an outlet for their Tjukurpa.

We have had the fantastic luck and privilege to get access to works of world famous Eunice Napanangka Jack from the very early part of this journey. 11 early works on paper have been recently rediscovered and are now in the ReDot Gallery for all to see.

These mid 90’s works show the start of a major art centre movement, giving a wonderful insight into how one of the community’s most famous artists started her spiritual journey of painting her dreamtime on modern art mediums.

*View Eunice Napanangka Jack Works*

**ARTIST’S PROFILE**

**MABEL JULI**

This month we feature ochre doyenne, Mabel Juli (bush name Wiringgoon) whom was born at Five Mile, near Moola Boola Station (south of Warmun) around 1942. As a baby she was taken to Springvale Station, her mother’s country where she started work as a little girl before moving to Bedford Downs Station and Bow River Station to work as a young lady.

Mabel Juli is a senior Warmun artist. She is a strong Law and Culture woman and an important ceremonial singer and dancer. Juli started painting in the 1980s, at the same time as well-known Warmun artists Queenie McKenzie and Madigan Thomas. The women used to watch Rover Thomas paint and one day he said to them, ‘You try yourself, you might make good painting yourself’. Juli says, ‘I started thinking about my country, I give it a try’.

Juli is a dedicated, innovative artist who continues to work in natural earth pigments on canvas. She primarily paints the Ngarrangkarni (Dreaming) stories of her country Darrajayin (also spelt Tarrajayan), which is covered largely by Springvale Station.

She has an extensive exhibition history dating back to 1994 and in recent years has held many solo shows at the top Aboriginal galleries across Australia. Her work is very sought after and features in most Aboriginal collections across the world.

We have several top quality examples of her work in the Gallery so do not miss the opportunity to see one of the world’s foremost ochre painters in July at the ReDot.

*View Mabel Juli Works*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY**
The Gallery will be open on May 1st as per normal, from 12 noon to 7pm. The public holiday is a great chance to see the works of Bidyadanga Artists and get a sneaky preview of the Warmun ochre paintings.

**CORY SURPRISE HITS THE NEWS**

In our quest to keep you informed of the latest and “hottest” works that come onto the market from the Australian desert we have recent acquired a block of works by one of the most important female painters from the art community of Mangkaja Arts, in the North West of Australia known as Fitzroy Crossing Wakartu Cory Surprise.

Attached in the link below is a recent significant article in the 1st ever edition of the Aboriginal Art Magazine, a new publication solely focused on ‘top end’ ethically sourced Aboriginal art.

As you can see Cory’s star ever grows brighter. We first showed her work in the Gallery in May 2005 in a show entitled “SURPRISE… Cory & Friends”. We spotted her strengths early and over the last 4-5 years her reputation has gone in leaps and bounds.

Please look at the attached article for more information and search for all her work on our website at the stock room section!

(View Article on Cory Surprise)

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**REDOT GALLERY Pte Ltd**

11 Everton Road, Singapore 089367
Tel/fax: +65 6222 1039
[www.redotgallery.com](http://www.redotgallery.com)  [info@redotgallery.com](mailto:info@redotgallery.com)

Opening hours from 12pm to 7pm, Tuesday to Saturday.
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