



'Rain Coming to the Desert' Collaboration
171 x 126 cm Jap 004932

MEDIA RELEASE

Japingka's autumn exhibitions are both iconically Western Australian. 'Old-timers' from the remote Wangkatjungka community in the far north Kimberley are showing alongside more recently established yet highly accomplished artists from the coastal Pilbara region.

Gallery1

The Wangkatjungka artists' exhibition Desert Rains is exuberant with lush, fresh colours. In October 2008, as the artists settled down to paint for their exhibition, early seasonal rain began to fall. David Wroth, Japingka's director reported, "Everyone's minds began to wander to their ancestral country as they took up their brushes. In conversation, they wondered if the rain was reaching deep into their country, if it was filling the waterholes. They wondered if their country was healthy or ailing."

Most of the Wangkatjungka artists have been living away from their country for nearly sixty years. As exiles from the Great Sandy Desert, the old people revisit their homelands in their thoughts and in their paintings. This exhibition sings with colours of hope. Inspired by the rains, a sense of rejuvenation and exuberance has emerged from the intense interaction between memory and canvas resulting in vividly coloured collaborative and individual works.

Gallery2

Artists from Yinjaa-Barni Art in Roebourne in Western Australia's Pilbara district speak a different pictorial language to represent their country. Allery Sandy and Wendy Darby paint the land from an aerial perspective, their works giving the sensation of flying over the landscape and seeing the meandering watercourses etched into the red earth. Clifton Mack has a highly individual visual vocabulary to represent his intimate view of country, while Pansy Sambo has a more European painterly approach in her representations of the bush and flowers of the area.

The Yinjaa-Barni artists group have been painting and exhibiting together for several years now and Clifton Mack, Allery Sanders, Maudie Jerrold and Wendy Darby have, between them, taken out many prizes from the annual Cossack Art Awards. Patricia Floyd, Yinjaa-Barni Art Centre Coordinator, says: "Painting has engendered a great sense of self-worth and pride within the community. The older members paint what is close to their hearts - their country, their culture, plants of the region. They are now teaching the younger members through painting and story-telling, particularly about the plants and their traditional uses."

The exhibitions open on Friday 15th May 2009 at 6.30pm and remain open daily until 24th June 2009

Print quality images are available from [here](#) for print media purposes.

For further information, please contact Ian Plunkett (Gallery Director) on (08) 9335 8265 or via email on japingka@iinet.net.au.

Gallery Hours: Mon - Fri: 10.00am - 5.30pm, Sat & Sun: 12.00pm - 5.00pm. FREE ENTRY.

Exhibitions can be viewed online at: www.japingka.com.au.

J A P I N G K A
INDIGENOUS FINE ART GALLERY