

A New Generation; A New Perspective **Female Australian Indigenous Artists** **at Art Cologne**

SMITH-DAVIDSON GALLERY will be showing 12 works by one of Australia's most renowned artists, the First Nations painter Emily Kam Kngwarray.

Also included in the exhibition will be works by other celebrated female artists such as Naata Nungurrayi, Barbara Weir, Gloria Petyarre, Maggie Watson Napangardi and Minnie Pwerle.

November 16 - 19 – Art Cologne booth #C301

Discover works by the Second Generation of the Aboriginal Australian Art Movement



Emily Kam Kngwarray,
My Country Wall (1994)
Courtesy SmithDavidson Gallery

Location

Koelnmesse, Cologne

Thursday November 16, Preview & Vernissage (By invitation only)

Friday, November 17 - Sunday, November 19

SmithDavidson Gallery, Hall 11.1 Booth #C301

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Press Release

“It was October 9th 2006, as it turned out a life changing day for me, as, on that day, for the first time, I came eye to eye with an indigenous Aboriginal masterpiece from the Western Desert, an epic painting by Naata Nungurrayi. ”

David Smith

SmithDavidson Gallery has been a prominent advocate and educator internationally for Australian Indigenous Art since 2006. Following the positive responses to the gallery's presentation at Art Cologne 2022, including front page coverage at the Kölnische Rundschau, the gallery's presentation for 2023 highlights the specific era between 1985 and 2010 of the 'Second Generation' painters. An era in which female painters take the lead and whose innovations greatly expanded the art movement.

Utopian artist Emily Kam Ngwarray is without a doubt the most notable artist from this era and her ability to experiment with both subject matter, composition and color has changed our understanding of 'Australian Aboriginal Art'. At the same time artists like Nyurapayia Nampitjinpa - or 'Mrs. Bennett' as she was the wife of the late artist John John Bennett - and Naata Nungurrayi, expanded the art of the Western Desert with new color schemes and subject matters; telling their own stories inspired by the Women's Dreamings hidden from the male perspective and, up to that point, also from the art world at large.

“Australian Aboriginal Art clearly bridges the gap between the Abstract and the Figurative arts and between the traditional and the present.”

David Smith

As on the Australian continent where art was one of the first tools the indigenous communities found to create awareness to their cultural identity and to rebuild communities and traditions that were lost after decades of Western colonial activities. Art can be a powerful tool indeed.

Note to Editor, not for publication:

For additional information, materials & images.
Or to schedule an interview with gallery owner David Smith.

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ORIGINS

Australian Aboriginal Art From the SmithDavidson Collection

Inspired by a cultural tradition that goes back at least 40,000 years, Australian Aboriginal Art as a recognized art movement is just 50 years old. The ancient visual traditions of the indigenous peoples, by painting on bodies, in the sand and on rocks, originally solely served a ceremonial and religious purpose. It was only in 1971, when the first group started to put these images on board in the settlement of Papunya in Western Australia, that this tradition became art. Thereby creating Australian Aboriginal Art as both a vital expression of the world's oldest continuous cultural tradition and as a remarkable contemporary art movement.

Building slowly but steadily since the art movement's humble origins in the settlement of Papunya in 1971, the current international appeal of Contemporary Australian Aboriginal Art and the flight it has taken can be illustrated by multiple exhibitions and events worldwide over the past decade(s). Emily Kam Ngwarray (ca. 1910 - 1996) became one of Australia's most famous artists after her retrospective in Japan in 2008, traveling from The National Museum of Art in Osaka to The National Art Center in Tokyo. Her work 'Earth's Creation' was also featured prominently in the central pavilion of the 56th Biennale di Venezia in 2015, her retrospective will open in December 2023 at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra.

Other artists such as Naata Nungurrayi (ca. 1936 - 2021), Paddy Nyunkuny Bedford (ca. 1922 - 2007) and in particular Warlimpirrnga Tjapaltjarri (born ca. 1958) who received critical acclaim after first being shown at Dokumenta 13, have become internationally renowned. After this curators brought the works of Warlimpirrnga to New York for several exhibitions as well as to the PAMM in Miami in 2016. The interest of private collectors has also been rapidly rising over the last several years and well known collections have been established, such as the influential collection of Colin & Elizabeth Laverty.