

Dreaming Art Centre of Utopia

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Lizzie Pwerle



Lizzie Pwerle is an emerging aboriginal artist living in Utopia. Her country is Atnwengerrp and her languages are Anmatyarre & Alyawarre. Lizzie has been painting on canvas since the 1980's and was involved in the Utopia batik projects, which started with an adult education workshop in 1977. Lizzie is a first cousin to the Pwerle sisters (Galya, Molly, Emily & the late Minnie Pwerle).

The Dreamings Lizzie paints include 'My Country Atnwengerrp', 'Bush Tucker' and 'Women's Ceremony'. For 'My Country Atnwengerrp', Lizzie uses delicate rectilinear patterns of finely dotted white lines on a black background to recreate an aerial perspective of the terrain at Atnwengerrp. These quite formal, graphic works show Lizzie's intimate knowledge and love for her country.

Lizzie also paints 'Women's Ceremony' using intricate and varied dots in circular forms and linear designs. In 2008 Lizzie began painting 'Bush Orange', which is represented by lines of fine dots of Bush Orange branches sprawled across the canvas.

The Bush Orange that Lizzie paints is a native fruit that grows in Atnwengerrp. Once abundant but now scarce due to the impact of over grazing, this species was traditionally a stable source of bush tucker for Aboriginal people. The fruit grows on a long, thin stalk and is larger

than a passionfruit. It is green when unripe turning yellow in maturity. It is soft inside and its flavour is often compared to a custard apple. The fruit is consumed raw once the tough outer skin is discarded or is laid out to dry, ready to consume during months when bush tucker is scarce.

The physical creation of the 'Bush Orange' Dreaming, which is an important part of the Utopia women's bush tucker ceremonies, is to ensure the health and regeneration of the bush orange. By painting her Dreamings - 'Bush Orange', "Women's Ceremony" and 'My Country Atnwengerrp' Lizzie is continuing an ancient and rich cultural tradition while celebrating the close bonds she has with her country.

EXHIBITIONS

- 1989-91 "Utopia – a Picture Story", Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide, SA.
- 1990 "Utopia – a Picture Story", an exhibition of 88 works on silk from the Holmes a Court Collection by Utopia artists which toured Eire and Scotland.
- 2007 "Standing on Ceremony", Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide, SA.
- 2007-8 Permanent Exhibition, Dacou Gallery, Adelaide, SA.
- 2008 Group Exhibition, Gallery Savah, Paddington, NSW.
- 2008 "Utopia Discoveries", Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC.
- 2008 "EWB Elements", travelling group exhibition to major cities in Australia.
- 2008 "Contemporary Aboriginal Art Exhibition", Harrison Gallery Sydney.
- 2008 "Small Works", group exhibition, Alison Kelly Gallery, Richmond, VIC.
- 2009 "Summer Exhibition" Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne
- 2009 Boondi Aboriginal Art, Sydney, NSW
- 2009 Gallery Savah, Paddington, NSW
- 2009 Alison Kelly Gallery, Melbourne, Vic
- 2009 "Utopia, Color's of the Desert", Gongpyeong Art Space in conjunction with Dacou, Australian Embassy in Korea & Crossbay Gallery, Seoul, Korea.
- 2009 Permanent Exhibition, Dacou Gallery, Melbourne, Vic
- 2009 Ulladulla Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2009 "Utopia and Papunya Contemporary Aboriginal Art", Bay Gallery London

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Gallery Savah, Paddington, NSW
Dacou, Adelaide, SA
Ironwood Arts, Alice Springs
Art Mob, Tasmania
Alison Kelly Gallery, Melbourne
Boondi Aboriginal Art, Sydney
Ulladulla Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC.
Alison Kelly Gallery, Melbourne, VIC