



WE ARE SPIRITUAL PEOPLE

Denise Brady

SOLO EXHIBITION

22 JUNE – 9 JULY 2024



Outstation
art from art centres





OUTSTATION GALLERY IS PROUD TO PRESENT

WE ARE SPIRITUAL PEOPLE

Denise Brady

in association with Tjarlirli Art

SHOWING 22 JUNE – 9 JULY 2024

IMAGES:

COVER: *Time Machine* (detail) page 11

PREVIOUS: *Ara Kupa Kupa* (detail) page 9

LEFT: *Kututu* (detail) page 15

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Outstation
art from art centres

When I'm painting, I'm not painting about other countries or places, or even my country. I'm thinking about and painting about what's happening in my mind and my heart. When I think, I do a picture. Me and my canvas, we talk to each other. It helps me work out what I'm thinking and feeling. It's like all my thinking, the canvas sucks it out of my mind and heart and stamps it on the canvas, makes it stable. I'm not talking about outside things, I always talk about how I am feeling and thinking about those things, it all comes from inside me.

– DENISE BRADY



Denise Brady with her work
'Ara Kupi Kupi', Kaltukatjara 2022

COURTESY OF TJARLIRLI ART

WE ARE SPIRITUAL PEOPLE

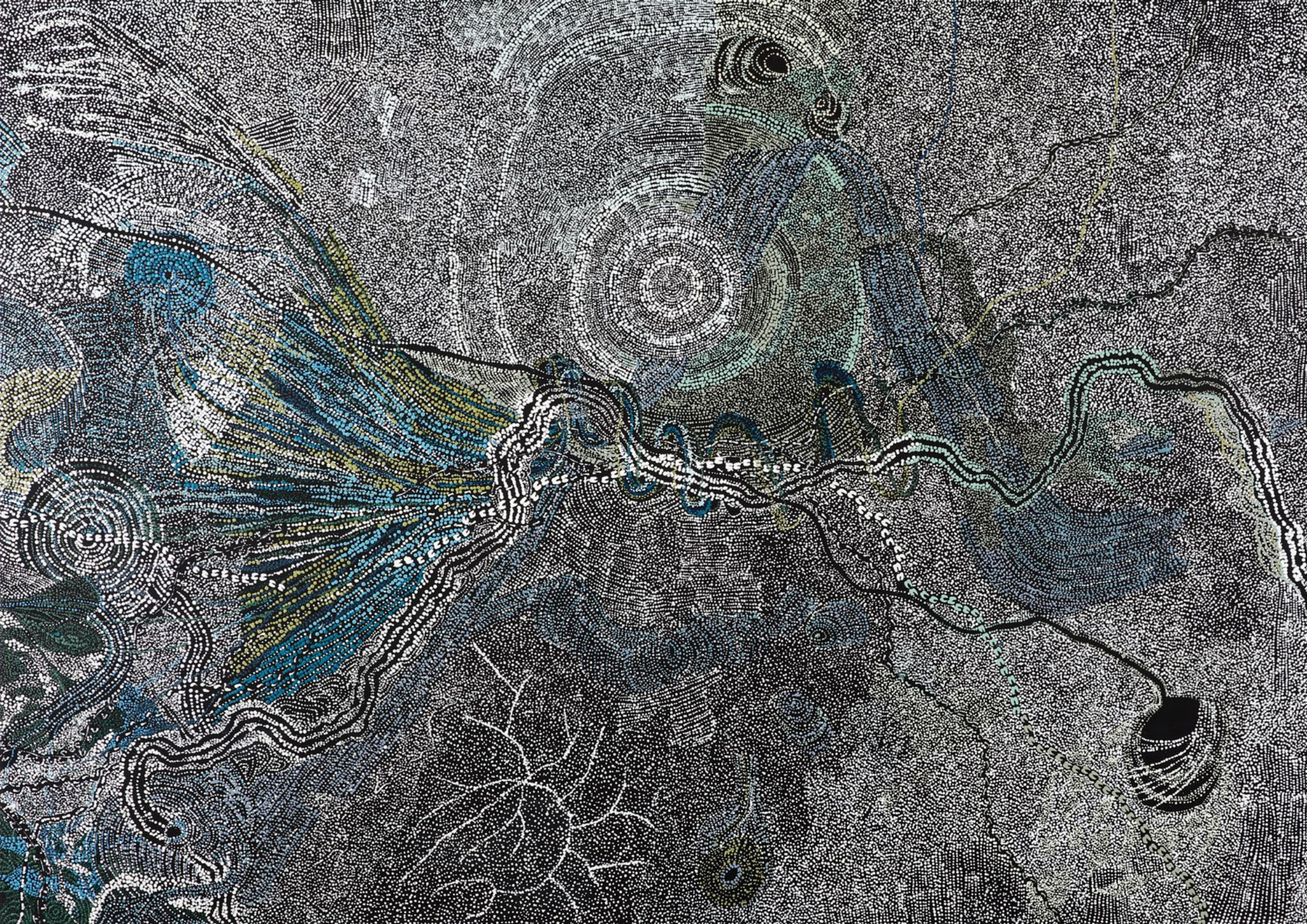
BY DENISE BRADY

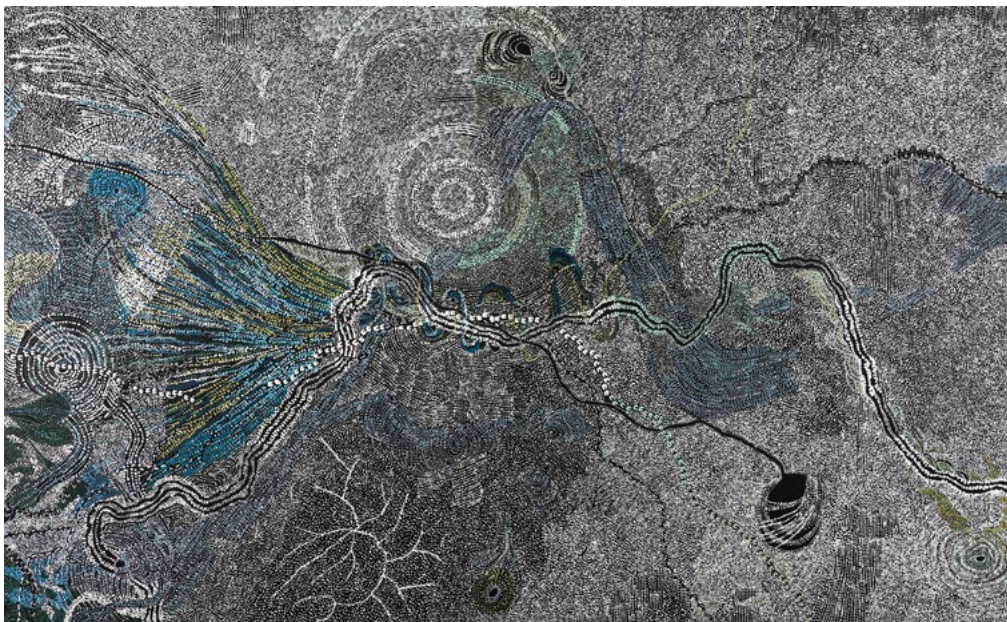
It's been about twenty years that I've been doing painting, working hard on my paintings. I'm doing paintings to keep me happy, keep me awake, keep me alive and enjoying my life. To be proud of myself, and so I can represent who I am. With this exhibition, it feels like this is it now, I need to tell people who we really are. We are spiritual people, we come from living God. We have a strong heart, and strong feelings. We need to respect each other and care about each other, and that's my message from these paintings.

When I was in Adelaide for Tarnanthi, I was excited, it felt like I was new there. I didn't really know what was happening, what was going on. I was running around, with family, shopping! I even lost a bag of fancy clothes because I was running around too much. I like Adelaide. But it felt like I was just a baby, just a new one. I think this Darwin show is going to be really me. Me and my paintings and my story. So, I'm there for it, to talk about it. Let everyone know, so it can keep growing. Darwin, this is my next step. The baby is growing. Growing in what I see and what I feel. I'm looking forward to the things that are coming.

When I do a painting, I don't know how it works, I can't really tell you. When you do a painting, it's like your mind is printing something there. I think all of my paintings are about life. I'm an artist who loves painting true stories, to stamp my stories onto a big canvas for the world to recognise. I want people to know that Anangu culture is still alive, the everyday culture of our lives. Not just Tjukurpa irititja way (Dreaming old time way) — culture is all about feeding my family, looking after them, supporting and encouraging each other and everyone. So Anangu culture is how we live, as Anangu. It's following the Dreamings, your family tree, family line, you know. Looking after each other, loving one another, respecting. It's my dream coming true. I want to spread my message to the whole world for them to think about and understand. Mulapa, that's in our life too. Because in my dream, the voice of God told me to heal many. I'm thinking about how we need to fix all our broken connections, our broken relationships and families and everything.

It's a time of big changes in my life, and we need big changes to heal the land. I just want to let you know that we are all humans, we have the same spirit that is connected. The good thing is if we can love and help one another, we can work together and respect each other. Maybe we live a bit different, but the heart we have inside is a soft heart. We are all one big happy family, brothers and sisters. Helping each other is a really good thing, it keeps everything balanced and stable. It keeps people healed up, not broken into pieces like jigsaw puzzles. With a puzzle, it's really hard to put it all back together, so instead of breaking it up into a jigsaw puzzle we need to keep it all in one piece. So I want these to be healing paintings. I think painting is good for this, because my paintings can travel and speak for me and help to heal people in many places. I hope you can understand and keep these things in mind, and I hope you take it and share it with others like I did.





Look, I Am Shrinking

The story for this painting is that it's something that is shrinking me. It's called "Look, I am Shrinking". It almost feels like me and my culture have been strangled and squished. I'm really tired. There's nowhere I can breathe in and out, and all my strength is getting weaker. The long lines in the canvas are the bits getting squashed in — all along here, in the middle, see where that's getting squashed? You can see on the sides the fold is pulling right on me. Where those *kamela* (camel) tracks are going in, that's my vision. Everytme I do a canvas, I do those tracks.

The big white circle motif is my voice, my spirit, calling out for help. See this round bit here? It's trying to sing out louder and louder, but all these things are trying to strangle me. The white in the canvas is Anangu (western desert Aboriginal peoples') way, and the coloured parts are whitefella culture. It's rushing in and strangling, it's like a really cold wind flowing throughout the land, flowing everywhere, flowing into our dreams and visions. Trying to flow underground even, into the holes and rivers and all that.

But that Anangu culture is still alive, the everyday culture of our lives. Not just *Tjukurrpa irititja way* (Dreaming old time way) — culture is all about feeding my family, looking after them, supporting and encouraging each other and everyone. But right now, I'm feeling like I want to hide my culture — like getting a big blanket and wrapping it around me and keeping my culture inside of me without showing it to the world. That's how the world is making me feel. Like I have to hide it. Because it's mine, and it's who I am.

So Anangu culture is not just Tjukurrpa, like in a painting. It's how we live, as Anangu. It's following the Dreamings, your family tree, family line, you know. Looking after each other, loving one another, respecting. So that's my story.

Look, I Am Shrinking

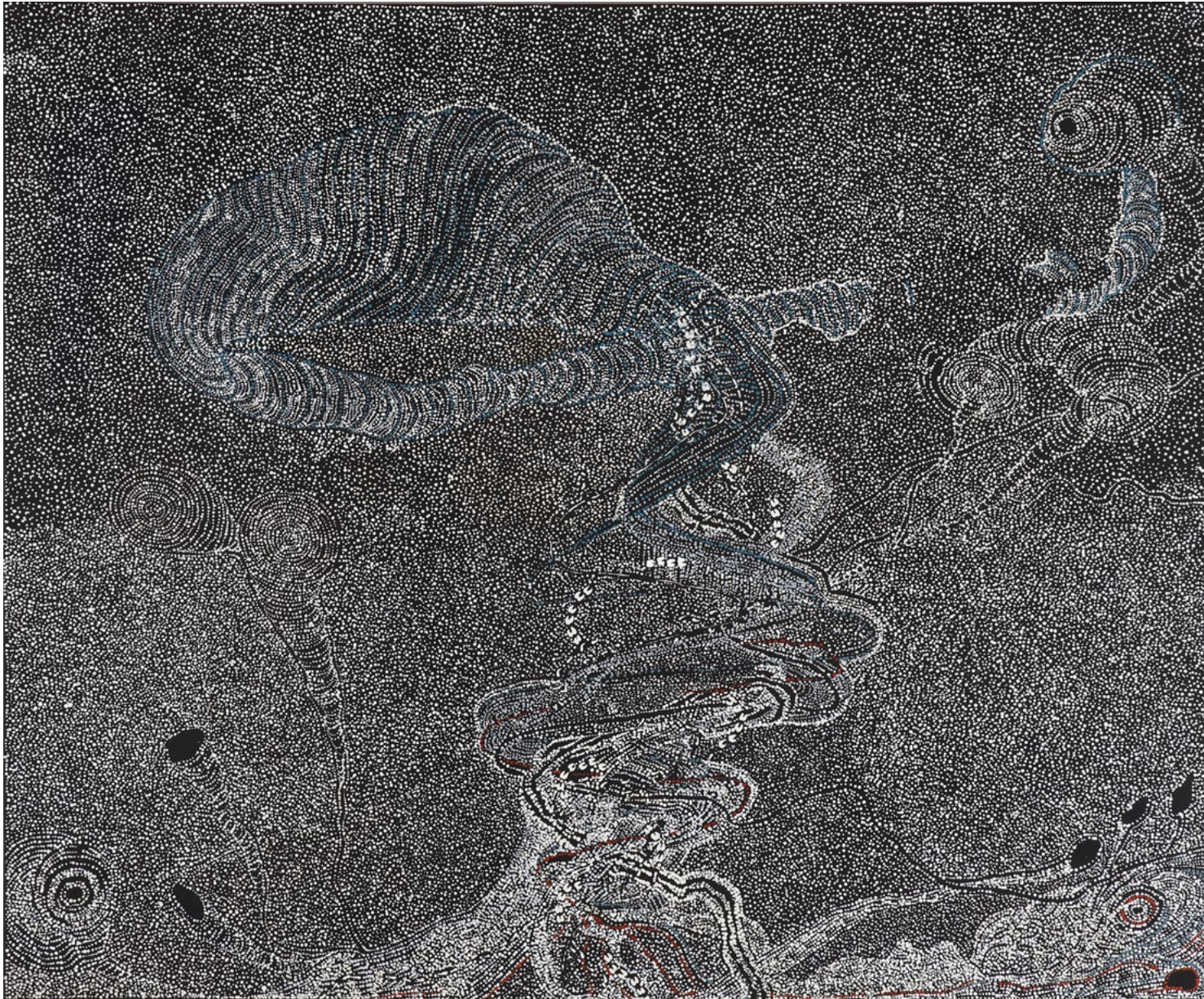
2022

acrylic on canvas

183 x 305 cm

22-620

\$22,000



Ara Kupi Kupi

This painting. It's about a willy willy, we call it *kupi kupi*. Over here, the willy willy is taking all the songs, the stories, the country, everything, and it's taking it up into the air. Taking it away from where it's been living, and it's gonna be kept up there in the sky.

Round the countryside, we can see all the stories there. But these stories, it's like all of them are going up into the air. You gotta start focusing and having dreams.

From your dreams, you can do a painting, to let people know that story. Sometimes, we forget about our country, our nanna or our *tjammu's* (grandfather's) country. If you're not going out on that country to look around, you can also find out the story from Dreaming. You can learn from that dream.

Ara Kupi Kupi

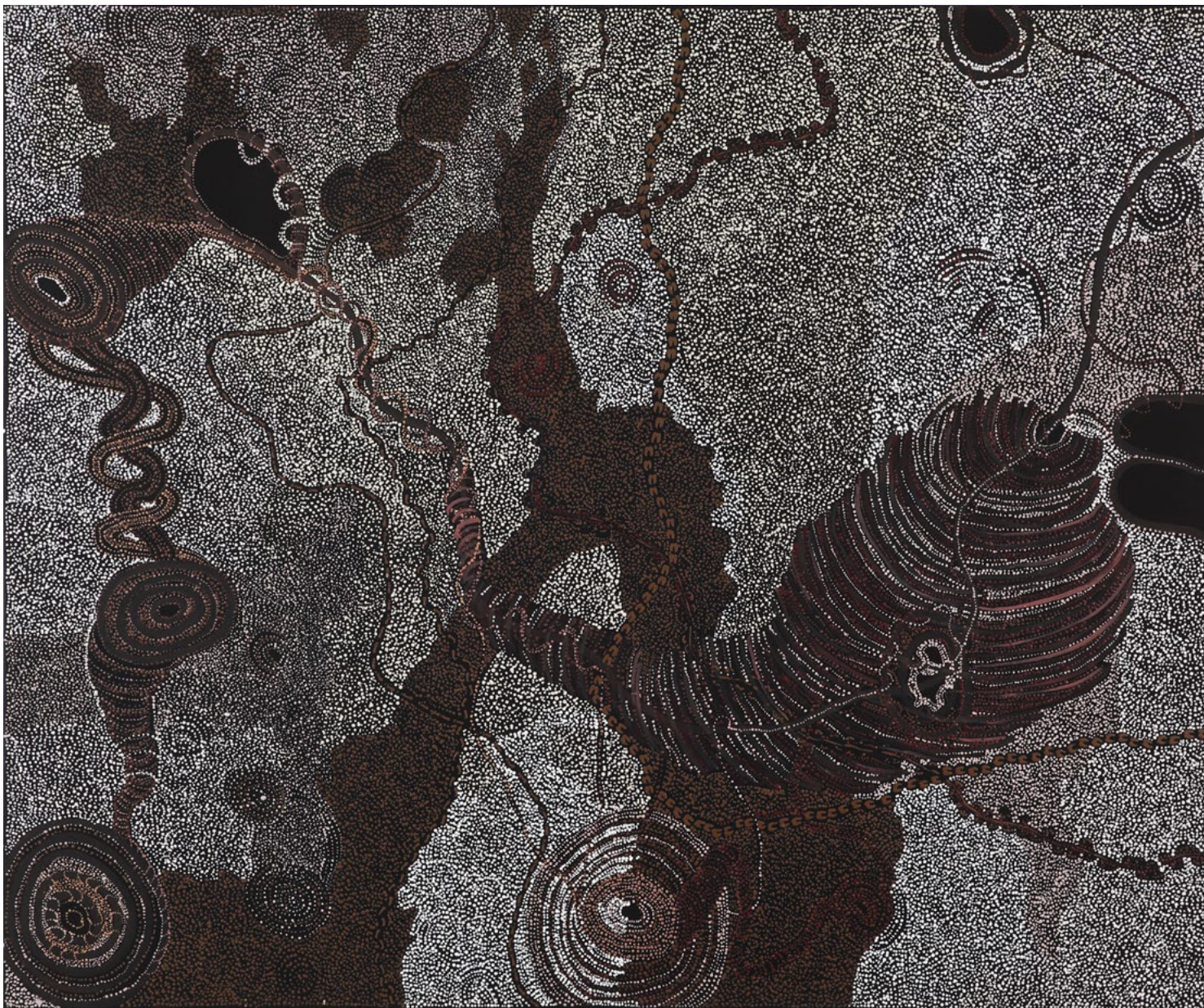
2022

acrylic on canvas

148 x 178 cm

22-869KA

\$11,000



Pitalypa, The Secret Cocoon

This invisible bug has been around for many years. It has been eating many types of shapes and colours. Staring and listening, touching and smelling it. The bug is a poisoner. It has ended up in this stronghold cocoon, but soon it will break out of its cocoon. It will be known to the whole world, and will be flying high above the ground, flying high in the sky where no one can catch it, stop it or kill it. The bug will be out of the cocoon permanently, forever. No one stopping it, no chance given. Never again will stand together, never will listen to anybody who will be wailing the cry of our people, unless they listen to this warning. *Ngaltutjara nganana putu mulapa kulilku.* Poor things, we will be lost, we won't understand anymore what happened. We always were caring for each other in the past, but now we are feeling separated.

Pitalypa, The Secret Cocoon

2023

acrylic on canvas

148 x 178 cm

23-1006KA

\$11,000



Time Machine

Everything we see on this earth is changing. It's changing into many forms and different shapes. It's like how the sun is making beautiful but different colours at sunrise and sunset, different times of day.

Our kids, some of them are growing mangka grey, like grey hair. Normally, it changes into grey when a person gets really old, but now from a young age they're looking old. Even babies have grey hair. Everybody is saying it's their wisdom showing, but I think it's because we've gone forward in time, already arrived into the future too quick.

The kids are really not going to high school or college, and with the jobs it really depends on the policies. The weather is really strange too; in winter we are getting lightning and thunder, that's supposed to be in summer! And then summer time, it feels like its winter a bit, there's foggy clouds, winter clouds. Big bushfires are making the sun dark, or red, it feels like the end of days from prophecies of the Holy Bible. Years ago we used to see maybe one satellite flash past at night; now, we see too many! Lines across the sky, sometimes they make shapes, sometimes they flash like fireworks. We've come to the future walawinki (in a rush). I got this feeling that nothing is normal; I mean wow, isn't it all weird?

Time Machine

2023

acrylic on canvas

148 x 178 cm

23-1421KA

\$11,000





Punu Walytjapiti – Family Tree

Punu Walytjapiti represents community connection. The branches are the family line, the songs, the stories. The *walytjapiti*, one big group.

The leaves are the people in one big group of friends and family – the green represents strong healthy people with good ways of living. They have got houses, money, food, jobs with plenty of IDs – with happy strong life. The orange leaves are those people that are homeless – without happiness. Fatherless, motherless, some have missed to be registered with birth certificates ... mum having a hard time because the husband living with someone else ... everything is too hard to be signed and too late to be recognized. They suffer with no jobs, no centrelink money, now they're getting older without everything ...

The roots represent the languages, dreams, visions, the culture, the family lines, the respect, love, patience, self control, the fruit of the spirit. The healthy branches don't know about the branches of the tree that are suffering. The people have forgotten that they are all connected, all part of the same tree.

People need to wake up and see the reality of what is happening in real life – to their own family and own blood. If they remember that they are all connected to the same roots, then they can share and all the branches and leaves of the tree can be healthy.

Culture is about how we live together, how we stand together, eat together, meet together and fight for our rights, how we love others and support each other. How strong we were before to remind each other of the strengths and power from our old people. Reminding each other of the goodness inside.

In the past we would all mourn together, in one pain of sorrow. Nowadays people are blaming each other about witchcraft, people not attending somebody's funeral, complaining about taking sides, money problems, royalty problems. All these things are happening and it's getting worse ... violence, breaking in, stealing, fighting. Used to be one voice about sharing ... one feed, one meal, one family line, one country ...

Punu Walytjapiti – Family Tree

2023

acrylic on canvas

148 x 178 cm

23-1502

\$11,000



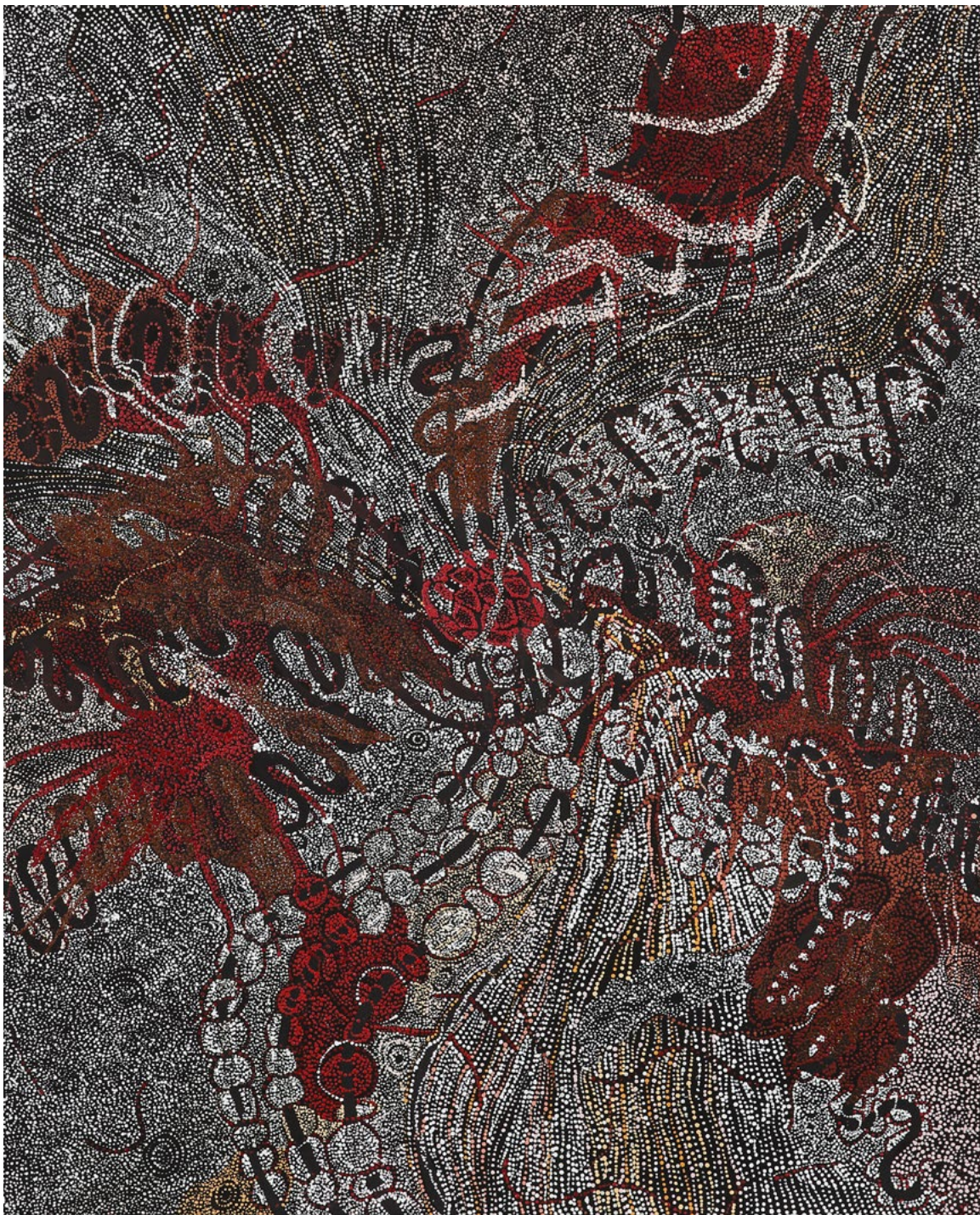
Self Control

This is a story about the fruits of our spirit, and how we can learn self-control. We need self-control to help us grow strong, and to overcome negative things. This allows positive things to break through, so we can have a better life.

The long white line is our *kurunpa*, our spirit. The coloured flowers are the gifts of the spirit; they're all connected to one vine, one punu (tree). The concentric circles through the canvas are the voices of Anangu, speaking about the bounty of these spiritual fruits.

Self Control
2024
acrylic on canvas
148 x 178 cm
24-0209KA

\$11,000



Kututu

The centre of the heart represents the nation. When we have a good heart we have good feelings all around us. Seeing, hearing, touching, and doing - when we have a strong mind we have a strong way to control ourself to overcome things. The black lines are the sounds of many things that we're hearing; the small round parts are the sounds of our hearts beating. Red is the colour of love that flows throughout everything. It mixes altogether with the lovely sounds of our feelings, of breathing in and out.

The lines of dots are the air that comes in and goes out of our bodies; it is many colours. This [is] the vision I have when I really focus on seeing things. The red is our heart; it works with the brain as it flows, connected altogether as it moves smoothly. The sound carries away our heartbeats to others, so they can feel and understand our strong ways. The heart of the nation is still alive.

Kututu
2024
acrylic on canvas
152 x 122 cm
24-377

SOLD



For further information or to see high resolution images please contact the gallery.

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