



Warlimpirrnga Tjapaltjarri

(Australian, 1958 -)

Tingari #1367

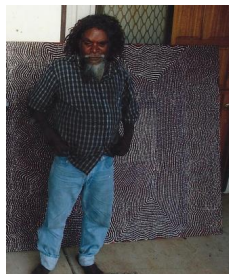
Acrylic on canvas
182 x 305 cm / 71.7 x 120.1 inch

ABOUT

The Tingari were a group of ancestral beings that emerged from the earth and conducted activities that led to the formation of the landscape and its inhabitants. The content of these ancient stories remains the exclusive knowledge of the initiated men. The painting depicts "tali tjuta"- many sandhills and 'kapi' or clay pans of the Maruwa area West of Lake McKay and Kalpartu which lies further south. In a minimal linear style, the artist has depicted a particular site known as Minatapinya, a large swamp south of Maruwa which is where Tingari me camped as they travelled east towards Wilkinkarra (Lake McKay) in Western Australia. The area is known for the Water Snake that travelled through this way in the creation time, the snake entered the water and now lives under ground. According to the artist, the wavy lines mark the watery areas that are found around and including Wilkinkarra (Lake MacKay).

BIOGRAPHY

(Warlimpirrnga Tjapaltjarri)



Warlimpirrnga Tjapaltjarri was born around 1958 east of Kiwirkurra in Western Australia. In 1984 the international headlines were filled with the 'discovery' of the last group of Australian Aborigines who until the late 20th century had managed to retain their traditional lifestyle in complete isolation. These so-called 'last of the nomads' or 'lost tribe' of nine Pintupi walked in from the bush west of Lake Owen that year and for the first time came into contact with western civilization. Six of these nine Aborigines became artists. From these six, Warlimpirrnga was the first who started painting after carefully observing other artists from the community at Kiwirkurra. Within three years, Warlimpirrnga transformed from a nomad with a traditional lifestyle into one of the leading artists from the Papunya Tula Artists corporation. In 1988, he held his first exhibition in Melbourne. Warlimpirrnga paints primarily in two styles, he makes extensive use of geometric shapes to depict the stories of the Tingari (ancestors), or he uses lines made up of carefully placed dots in his dreamings that depict holy Lake Mackay, a site of which he is one of the custodians. Warlimpirrnga uses the same dot technique as other Pintupi artists like his brothers, Walala and Thomas, but also George Tjungurrayi.

LITERATURE

- Hetti Perkins, *Art + Soul*, Miegunyah Press, 2011, p. 76;
Paul Toohey, 'The Last Nomads', *The Bulletin*, 4 May 2004, p.28-35;
Joan Winter, *Native Title Business, Contemporary Indigenous Art* (Catalogue), Koori Press, Queensland, 2002;
P. Corbally Stourton, *Songlines and dreamings: contemporary Australian aboriginal painting*, Lund Humphries, 1996, p. 177;
Vivian Johnson, *The Dictionary of Western Desert Artists*, Craftsman House, East Roseville, New South Wales, 1994;
F. Dussart, *La Peinture des Aborigines D'Australie*, Editions Parentheses, Marseille, 1993;
S. Crossman and J-P. Barou, *L'ete Australien a Montpellier: 100 Chefs d'Oeuvre de la Peinture Australienne*, Musee Fabre, Montpellier, France, 1990;
J. Ryan, *Mythscapes Aboriginal Art of the Desert from the National Gallery of Victoria*, exhib. cat., National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 1989.

EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 Art New York, SmithDavidson Gallery, Miami, USA
2018 EXPO Chicago, SmithDavidson Gallery, Chicago, USA

2017 Modern Masters, SmithDavidson Gallery, Miami, USA

2016 Art New York, New York, USA

2015 Pérez Museum, Miami, USA

2015 Signs and Traces: Contemporary Aboriginal Art. Cultural institute Zamek. Poznan, Poland

2015 The Armory Show. New York, USA

2014 Art Miami, Miami, USA

2012 dOKUMENTA (13), Fridericianum Museum, Kassel, Germany

2009 Scott Livesey Galleries, Melbourne

2003 Kintore Kiwirrkurra, Melbourne

2002-2005 Native Title Business - Contemporary Indigenous Art, a national travelling exhibition

1999 Exhibition with Ray James Tjangala, Gabrielle Pizzi Gallery, Melbourne

1993 Aboriginal Art Exhibition, Kung Gubunga, Oasis Gallery, Broadbeach (Queensland)

1991-1992 Friendly Country, Friendly People, Touring Exhibition, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs

1990 l'Ete Australien à Montpellier, Musée Fabre Gallery, Montpellier, France

1989 Mythscapes, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne