

# KUDDITJI KNGWARREYE

## CV

**Kudditji Kngwarreye is the half brother of the late Emily Kame Kngwarreye. Kudditji has participated in many international exhibitions and is known for depictions of his Dreamings, particularly those related to the law of the Emu ancestors.**

Born: Ernabella, SA  
Lives: Lives and works in Fregon

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS:

- 2016 *Singing Up Country I Kudditji Kngwarreye*, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
- 2016 *Kudditji Kngwarreye - A master painter thee is only one of him*, Mandel Gallery, Melbourne
- 2014 *Kudditji Kngwarreye*, Japingka Gallery, Perth
- 2014 *Earth + Sky*, FireWorks Gallery Brisbane
- 2011 *COLOURFIELD: new paintings*, FireWorks Gallery Brisbane
- 2011 *Eclectica Exhibition Series (I II and III)*, FireWorks Gallery Brisbane
- 2011 *Kudditji Kngwarreye*, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 *Kudditji Kngwarreye*, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
- 2010 *Summer Collection*, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2009 *Kudditji Kngwarreye: Pastels*, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
- 2009 *Kudditji Kngwarreye – Recent Works*, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, WA
- 2008 *30 Emu Dreamings*, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
- 2008 *My Country*, Japingka Gallery, Perth
- 2006 *Masterwork*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2006 *My Country*, Japingka Gallery, Perth
- 2005 *Waterhole Aboriginal Art*, Danks Street, Sydney
- 2005 *New Paintings*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2005 *Colours in Country*, Art Mob, Hobart, Tasmania
- 2004 *My Country, New Paintings*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2004 *My Country*, Japingka Gallery, Perth
- 2004 *Waterhole Aboriginal Art*, Sofitel Wentworth Hotel Exhibition, Sydney
- 2003 *New Paintings*, Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne
- 1999 *New Paintings*, Chapel off Chapel, Melbourne

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS:

- 2017 *Sharing Country*, Olsen Gruin, New York
- 2014 *Warmth, Happiness, Orange*, Central Art – Aboriginal Art Store, Alice Springs
- 2013 *Landmarks and Law Grounds*, Men of the Desert
- 2012 *Kudditji Kngwarreye & Lorna Napurrula Fencer*, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle
- 2010 *Tradition to Modernity*, Central Art – Aboriginal Art Store, Tasmanian Craft Fair, Deloraine
- 2008 *Black & White: Inspired by Landscape*, Kate Owen Gallery, Sydney
- 2005 *Big Country*, Gallery Gondwana, Alice Springs
- 2005 *Fresh from the Central Desert*, Canberra Grammar School, Canberra
- 2004 *Two Senior Men*, Art Mob Gallery, Tasmania
- 2004 Australian Exhibition Centre, Chicago
- 2004 *Spirit of Colour*, Depot Gallery, Sydney
- 2002: *The Contemporaries*, Contemporary Artspace, Brisbane
- 1992 *Tjukurrpa*, Museum fur Volkerkunde, Basel, Switzerland

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1991 Central Australian Aboriginal Art & Craft Exhibition, Araluen Centre, Alice Springs  
1990 *Art Dock*, Contemporary Art from Australia, Noumea, New Caledonia

COLLECTIONS:

Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs  
Corrigan Collection  
Bond University  
Hank Ebes Collection, Melbourne  
Macquarie University, NSW  
R. M. Barokh Antiques, Los Angeles, California

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Henly, Susan Gough, "Powerful Growth of Aboriginal Art," *The New York Times*, November 6, 2005

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# KUDDITJI KNGWARREYE

Like his half sister Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Kudditji (pronounced Kub-a-chee), seems set to take his place as one of Australia's foremost indigenous artists.

Kudditji Kngwarreye is the half brother of the late Emily Kame Kngwarreye. He had a traditional bush upbringing and worked as a stockman and mine worker for many years. He is also a traditional custodian of many important Dreamings, of the land and Men's Business ceremonial sites located in his country at Utopia Station, about 230 km north east of Alice Springs.

During his younger days Kudditji frequently took the young boys/men hunting emu in these lands, merging tradition with practice as part of their initiation as men. It is the land of this experience that he now paints his 'Emu Dreamings' and his 'My Country' works.

Kudditji has participated in many international exhibitions and is known for depictions of his Dreamings, particularly those related to the law of the Emu ancestors. When he began painting around 1986, he was encouraged to paint in the fashionable style of the time, executing works with detailed infill. Some years later he came to find his current style of abstract imagery, bold colour use and intuitive interplay with space and form. Initially this style was not welcomed by galleries and for a time he returned to his (then) more successful traditional style of work. However, the artist's voice was not to be denied for long, and he later resumed his exploration into the abstract and continues to follow his unique approach today.

Now Kudditji's Dreamings have profoundly evolved into extraordinary juxtaposed colour fields, startling in both composition and hue. Harsh or soft and often surprising to the Western eye, his painterly style maps out the creation, his country, and his traditional Dreamings. While his spatial, painterly compositions have a Rothko-esque quality to them, the work of this Anmatyerre elder from the Northern Territory is clearly a unique Australian voice. His highly intuitive and gestural method of painting together with his vibrant, colour saturated spaces is groundbreaking in Aboriginal art, and although he is already well collected it is felt by many industry insiders that his work is poised for a major market leap.