

Gloria TAMERRE PETYARRE

Born c.1932, Utopia Station, N.T.

Skin Name Petyarre (pronounced pi-jah-ra)

Language Group Anmayterre

Country Atnangkere

Community Boundary Bore

Region Utopia Homelands, Northern Territory

Stories Awelye (women's ceremonial body paint designs) Dreaming Stories Arnkerrthe (Mountain Devil Lizard), Angertla (Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming) Engcarma (Bean), Unyar (Emu), Annlara (Pencil Yam), Kadjeta (Grass Seeds), Elaitchurunga, Bush Medicine (Acacia leaves)

Gloria Petyarre is one of the seven well known artists- the 'Seven Petyarre Sisters', from the Utopia Region (Ada, Myrtle, Nancy, Kathleen, Violet and Jean Petyarre). Gloria first gained recognition as an artist working in the medium of batik, exhibiting with the Utopia Women in shows around Australia and abroad for a decade (1977-1987) before taking up the medium of canvas, painting her first work for CAAMA's Summer Project exhibition. In 1990-1991, Gloria travelled to Ireland, London and India as a representative of the Utopia women, accompanying the 'Utopia: A Picture Story' exhibition.

Gloria's work is based on the body paint designs for her Dreamings, and shows clearly the designs painted across the women's breasts and shoulders, particularly for the Mountain Devil Lizard Ceremony. Since those early, highly distinctive works, she has developed her paintings to higher levels of abstraction, and continually experiments with line and colour. Gloria's work features on the cover of the Art of Utopia by Michael Boulter, and has been included in major survey exhibitions including 'Flash Painting' at the National Gallery of Australia in 1992, the 1991 Art Gallery of NSW touring 'Aboriginal Women's Exhibition', and in solo exhibitions. A multi-award winner, Gloria won the AGNSW Wynne Prize for landscape painting in 1999 and has been selected as a finalist four times since. Gloria's work has featured many times in the most prominent Aboriginal art prize in the country, the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Art Award.

Awards and Commissions

2004 Wynne Prize for Landscape Painting, Highly Commended, Art Gallery of New South Wales

1999 Winner, Wynne Prize for Landscape Painting, Art Gallery of New South Wales

1993 Design for tapestry for Victorian Tapestry Workshop

Collections

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

Allen Allen and Hemsley (Allens), Sydney

Museum of Victoria, Melbourne

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin

Powerhouse Museum, Sydney

Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra

Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane

Westpac, New York

Gold Coast City Art Gallery, Surfers Paradise

Riddoch Art Gallery, Mt Gambier, SA

Robert Holmes à Court Collection, Perth

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

British Museum, London

Singapore Art Museum

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

Flinders University Art Museum

Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection, University of Virginia

Ranking - Most Important Australian Indigenous Artists (both living and deceased)

2011 **Ranked 21 /100**