

# Kubbitji (Kudditji) KNGWARREYE

<b>Born</b>	c. 1928
<b>Language</b>	Eastern Anmatyerre
<b>Community</b>	<i>Atneltyeye</i> Boundary Bore, Utopia
<b>Country</b>	Utopia Homelands. N.T.
<b>Region</b>	Central Australia
<b>Stories</b>	Emu Dreaming, Yam (Seed) Dreaming, My Country, Men's Ceremonies

Kubbitji Kngwarreye, like many Utopia artists, was initially employed as a stockman, and began painting in the early 1980s. As Custodian of his country on the northern boundary of the Utopia Homelands, Kubbitji painted interpretations of the Emu Dreaming sites and the ceremonies associated with Men's Business (Initiation Ceremonies) and Ancestral Dreamings, using precise dots, and featuring meticulously painted circles of dots on a chequered or dotted background. About the year 2000, Kubbitji's work became far looser and more 'abstract', and his work was then likened to his sister Emily Kngwarreye's final works, with wide brush strokes.

By 2003 Kubbitji began to explore a looser painting style. Using a heavily loaded paint brush, and often mixing solid colours on the canvas, Kubbitji was able to accentuate the landscape of his home country. As a stockman, living under the stars, Kubbitji knew every inch of his desert country and its wide open spaces. He had experienced the shimmering desert heat, the sudden flooding rains and the brilliance of the night sky, living far removed from civilisation.

Kubbitji's new paintings now have several styles, where Kubbitji explores the size of his canvas, as well as creating a sense of the immense space of the desert in his paintings. He uses massive blocks of stippled colour, sometimes with only two colours, while in other paintings a quilt of juxtaposed colours produces a landscape effect. Many writers have likened Kubbitji's paintings to the work of the American artist, Marcus Rothko.

## Achievements

In 2007 Kubbitji was named one of the 50 most collectable artists in Australia.

## Solo Exhibitions

- 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

## Collections

- Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs
- RM Barokh, Los Angeles, California
- Macquarie University, Sydney
- Hank Ebes Collection, Melbourne

## Bibliography

- Bardon, Geoffrey & Bardon, James: *Papunya: A Place made after the story*, (Miegunyah Press, 2004)
- Kleinert, Sylvia & Neale, Margo (eds.): *The Oxford Companion to Aboriginal Art and Culture*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 2000
- Kreczmanski, Janusz B & Birnberg, Margo (eds.): *Aboriginal Artists: Dictionary of Biographies: Central Desert, Western Desert & Kimberley Region*. 2004

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

**2011**      **Ranked 131/200**