



TJARLIRLI ROCKS

3rd June - 3rd July 2021

JGM GALLERY

JGM Gallery

24 Howie Street, SW11 4AY
(next to RCA Battersea)

Thursday 3 June – Saturday 3 July

MEDIA RELEASE

Tjarliri Rocks – an exhibition of contemporary Aboriginal art opens at JGM Gallery

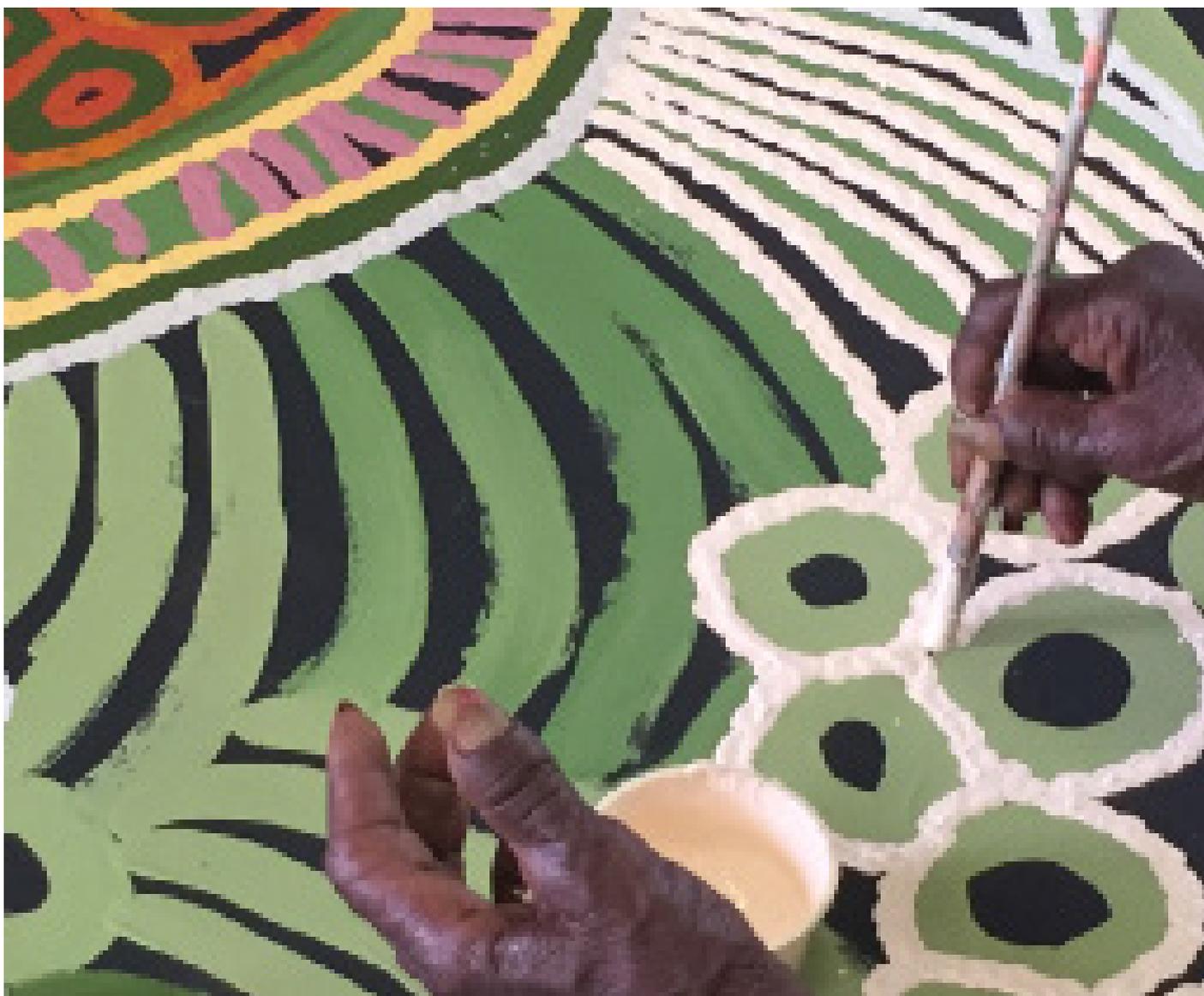
The 20 paintings, all vibrant acrylics on canvas, are by some of the most celebrated artists in Australia's Western Desert: Katjarra Butler, Bob Gibson Tjungarrayi, Nyarapayi Giles, Maggie Porter, Tjawina Porter and Martha Proty.

The *Tjarliri Rocks* exhibition, dedicated to the paintings of six contemporary Aboriginal artists, all from the central Western Desert region of Australia, will open at JGM Gallery in Battersea, London, on Thursday 3 June until 3 July 2021.

All six Tjarliri artists are based in Tjukurla, in the Ngannytjarra, or NPY, lands. The title of the exhibition, *Tjarliri Rocks* directly references the landscape of the lands first and foremost but additionally reflects the prominence of Tjarliri artists

Indigenous Australians boast one of the world's most ancient art civilizations, dating back an estimated 60,000 years. The art is dense with symbolism and narrative. The Tjarliri artists in particular are renowned for the use of vibrant acrylic colour in their painting, depicting symbolic shapes and age old 'mark making' – whether dots, patterns, lines or textures. Works are often aerial maps of "country" showing waterholes, sacred ceremonial sites and area where a variety of natural food is sourced.

Jennifer Guerrini Maraldi, founder of JGM Gallery, which is based next to the Royal College of Art campus in Battersea, says: "People tend to think of the desert as being dry and sandy, but in this central part of Australia the desert is full of vibrant colour, especially after the rains, when the landscape comes alive with the lush colours of trees and flowers in bloom, reflected in the work by the Tjarliri artists."



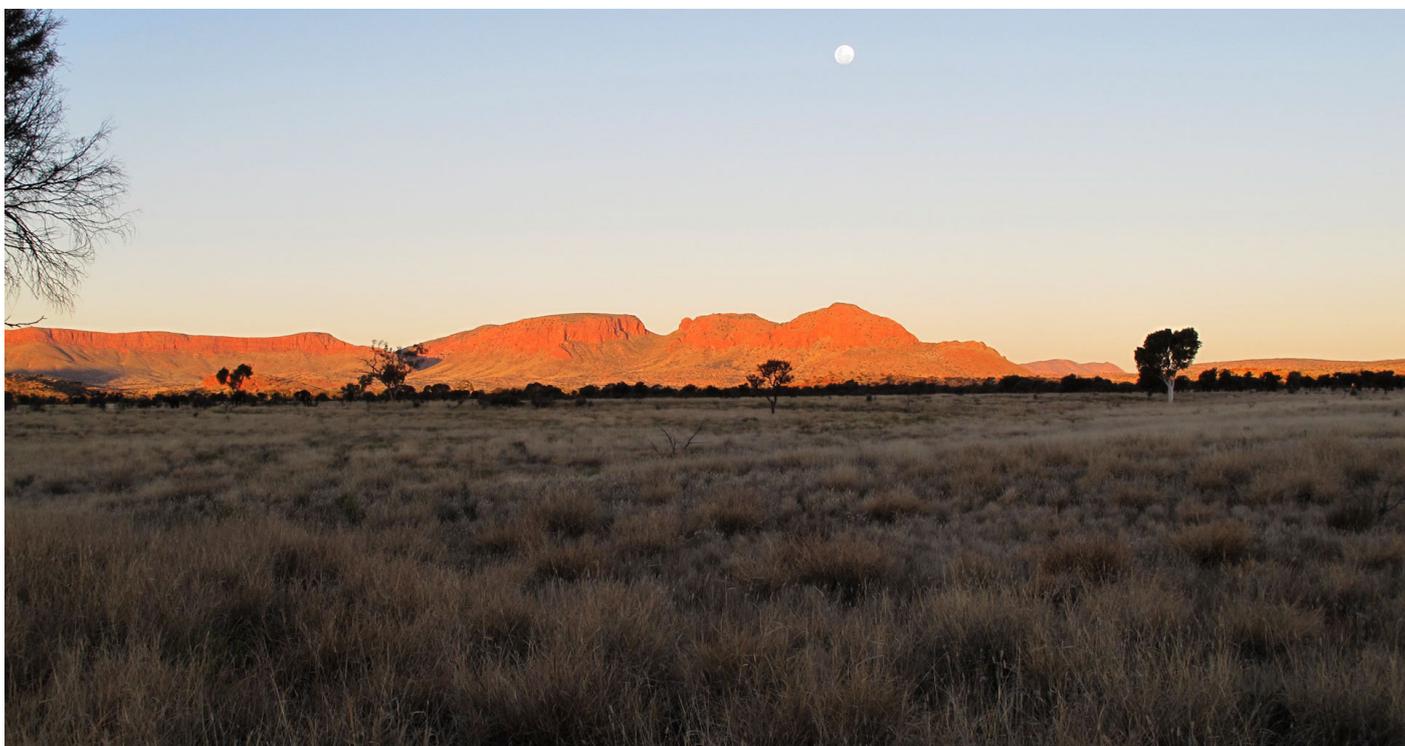
At the heart of Indigenous Australian culture is the Aboriginal peoples' symbiotic relationship with nature – the land, the sky and the sea – as well as the traditional guardianship of the natural environment. This in turn can be seen in their artwork.

"The art that we are showing as part of this exhibition is deeply inspired by nature - every aspect of the living world inspires the art of the Aboriginal people of the NPY lands," says Guerrini Maraldi, who was born in Australia. "At the same time, each of the six artists in the exhibition has a unique and recognisable way of painting country."

The 20 paintings that feature in the exhibition are acrylics on canvas. Five of the six artists are women, with two of the artists, Ms. N. Giles and Katjarra Butler, referred to as 'first contact' people, who grew up with their families as 'desert walkers', living a traditional nomadic life in the bush.

"It is into an enormously complex situation that Aboriginal artists paint and their agents trade those paintings into the global art market. Aboriginal art from remote communities has a profusion of roles to play in terms of identity, creativity, economic opportunity and exchange across immense cultural difference."

Tim Acker, 2009



One of the younger artists in the exhibition, *Bob Gibson Tjungarrayi*, is fast becoming recognised as one of the most interesting artists from the Western Desert cultural region, and, just before the opening of the exhibition, was asked to present his work before the Select Committee of the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

At the time of Gibson's first solo exhibition in the UK, at JGM Gallery in 2017, Henry F Skerritt, Curator at the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia, wrote:

"Gibson's paintings ask us to question the nature, the aesthetic, the very ways in which ancient iconographies can be remodelled and innovated. They show us how one artist can create a unique artistic statement, while remaining true to their ancient cultural knowledge."

The exhibition is presented at **JGM Gallery London** in the run-up to the **UK/Australia Season 2021-22**, which is taking place from August until November in the UK. As part of a focus on the arts, the Season explores and celebrates the diversity of cultures and languages in both countries, including the contemporary yet ancient culture of the Australian Aboriginal people.

For further information and high-resolution images of any of the 20 artworks on show, please contact:
JGM Gallery on info@jgmgallery.com or on 0207 228 6027.



T J A R L I R L I +
K A L T U K A T J A R A A R T

