



... the e-newsletter of the Ethnic Arts Council

may 2009

Calendar

Fowler Museum, more info at www.fowler.ucla.edu

Exhibition: *Icons of the Desert: Early Aboriginal Paintings from Papunya*

May 3 (opens for the public) thru August 2, 2009.

For the L.A. venue the traveling exhibition is expanded by a selection of Western Desert paintings from the local Kelton Foundation. On view are forty-nine early works of art from the ACTUS Foundation and nineteen later (1972-1999) works from the Kelton Foundation.

In 1971 Aboriginal men at the settlement of Papunya in Australia's "Red Center" obtained western art materials, like paint boards and acrylic paint. Paintings thus far had been created for sacred-secret purposes as ephemeral ground or body paintings. The introduction of permanent materials made the ancestral visual story-telling of the Aborigines accessible to wide audiences... and to the contemporary art market. An art movement was born, yet there are issues and problems beyond the romance.

The Ethnic Arts Council has supported this powerful show with a substantial grant.

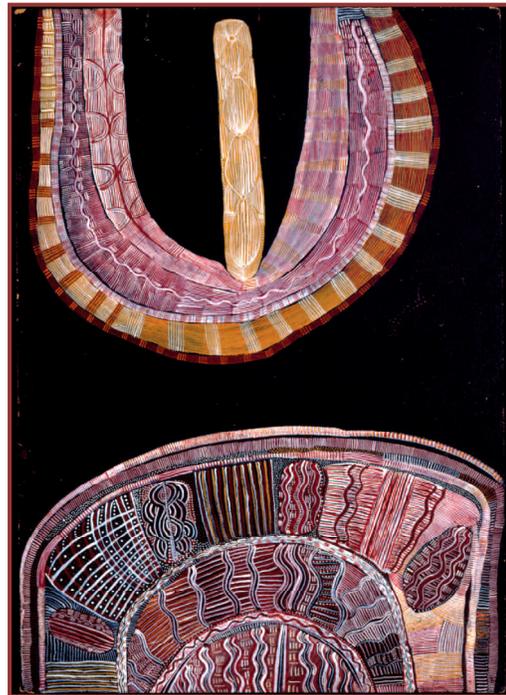


Image: Mick Namararri Tjapaltjarri, Big Cave Dreaming with Ceremonial Object, courtesy Fowler Museum

Events and lectures:

- **Saturday, May 2: Special opening program for Fowler Museum members and EAC members. Please RSVP to the Fowler at 310-206-7001.**
 - 5 to 6 PM: ROGER BENJAMIN (exhibition curator), *Affective Visions: Early Papunya Boards*
 - 6 to 7 PM: Special preview of the exhibition, followed by the opening party, music, light refreshments, and Australian wines.

- **Thursday, May 14, 7 pm**
BENJAMIN GENOCCHIO, *Dollar Dreaming: The Rise of the Aboriginal Art Market*
The New York Times art critic reflects on the role and challenges of Aboriginal art in the art market at large. He is the author of the 2008 book *Dollar Dreaming*.



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Fowler Museum, cont'd

- **Sunday, May 31, 2 pm**
VIVIEN JOHNSON, *Lives of the Papunya Tula Artists*
Professor Johnson is one of the foremost scholars on Aboriginal art and culture. Her 2008 book on the early Papunya Tula artists is the most recent and comprehensive documentary of the desert painting movement.
- **!!! EAC members:** An announcement by Program Chair Tamara Hoffman of an exclusive lecture in late May in context with the *Icons* exhibition is forthcoming.

LACMA, more info at www.lacma.org

- **Exhibition: *Pompeii and the Roman Villa*. May 3 to October 4, 2009.**
150 rare antiquities, meticulously detailed portrait busts, frescoes, paintings, and mosaics bring the opulent homes of Rome's ruling class to life.

The Huntington, more info at www.huntington.org

- **Exhibition: *Treasures through Six Generations: Chinese Painting and Calligraphy from the Weng Collection*. Ongoing to July 13, 2009.**
Highlights from one of the most important private collections of Chinese art.

Bowers Museum, more info at www.bowers.org

- **Exhibition: *Art of the Samurai: Selections from the Tokyo National Museum*. Ongoing to June 14, 2009**
On view are 81 objects, primarily from the Edo period (1603-1868), illustrating the multiple aspects of Samurai life.

Auctions

Sotheby's are having their Spring Tribal Auctions on May 15 and May 20, 2009 in New York City. Browse the catalogs at www.sothebys.com.

Among the highlights on May 15: Lot 146 - A PNG half-figure of Iriwáke, the god of thunder and headhunt. Only two such figures are known. Provenance: Friede collection. Estimate: \$1 million+, see **Editorial Note**, pg.3.

And, lot 126 - An important Nayarit seated couple (c. 100 BC-250 AD), high estimate of \$300,000. Early provenance: Stendahl Gallery, L.A. Anybody who attended the recent EAC program can appreciate the important role the gallery played and plays in the field of pre-Columbian art.





may 2008

Reminder, Hurry! Only a few tickets left for the “Darwin Fundraiser”!

“Charles Darwin Live & In Concert”
Richard Milner, the Singing Darwinian Scholar Performs
A fundraiser to benefit the Grants Program of the Ethnic Arts Council

When: May 9, 2009, 8 PM
Where: The Barbara Goldenberg residence, 12938 Evanston Street, Los Angeles, CA 90049
Tickets \$75, \$100, or \$150 p.p. (tax deductible)
Sumptuous wine and desserts reception
Mail your check to EAC (Feelie Lee),
510 E. Rustic Rd, Santa Monica, CA 90402
Details? Contact Feelie at feelie@ucla.edu or 310-721-0974



Darwin-inspired: Gabriel von Max, *Art Critics*, n.d

It’s Charles Darwin year! His 200th birthday and the 150th anniversary of his *On the Origin of Species* ...
EAC celebrates with a musical performance by Darwinian scholar Richard Milner. Richard Milner, who has performed his one-man-musical all over the world, will sing Darwin just for us... with humor.

Editorial Note

EAC e-news nov/dec 2008 reported on the potential break-up of the important Friede collection of New Guinea art, supposedly originally promised *in toto* to the de Young Museum, S.F.

The picture is still murky, but according to the *New York Times* of April 25, 2009 ten pieces will go on Sotheby’s block in N.Y.C. on May 15 and three more in Paris on June 16. These lots (see **Auctions**, pg.2) are part of Sotheby’s collateral for the auctioneer’s loan to John Friede of initially \$25 million. Sotheby’s has taken possession late last year of additional 44 pieces securing their loan to Friede. Also, the City of San Francisco (i.e. the de Young Museum) according to the *San Francisco Chronicle* will allow the sale of (different) 76 pieces (“redundant or less significant” and not on view right now at the de Young) in order to raise money to settle the multi-party dispute. The expectation is that this sale will raise about \$3.5 million. Suits and counter-suits will continue in three different jurisdictions. Stay tuned for the uncertain outcome of a nasty estate dispute of three (half)brothers.



Published: April 28, 2009
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The Ethnic Arts Council of Los Angeles (EAC)
Dedicated to Advancing the Knowledge, Interest, and Appreciation of Ethnic Art