



**MINNIE PWERLE**

If your not very familiar with Indigenous art I believe its still safe to say you would have hear of Minnie Pwerle. Art dealer Hank Ebess described Minnie’s work as ‘genius’ and Minnie is considered to be one of Australia’s best-known Indigenous artists.

Minnie Pwerle was born in C1920’s north east of Alice Springs. She was one of six children. Interestingly she didn’t start painting commercially until 10 years before her death when artist Lindsay Bird Mpetyane suggested Utpoian woman paint on canvas using acrylic paint. It was then in her late 80’s that Minnie started to paint her traditional designs and the Bush Melon Dreaming which she inherited.

She was an immediate success as her bold and deeply mesmerising depictions appealed to audiences around the world. Minnie’s art was quickly added to major public collections such as the Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery of South Australia, National Gallery of Victoria and Queensland Art Gallery. It was also included in a 2009 exhibition of Indigenous Australian painting at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art. Her works later formed the basis of a series of designer rugs.

Regarded as one of Australia’s leading contemporary women artists, Minnie ranks alongside other notable Indigenous female painters Dorothy Napangardi, Gloria Petyarre and Kathleen Petyarre. One of a number of women such as Emily Kngwarreye who dominated central and western desert painting in the first decade of the 21st century, Minnie is considered to be one of Australia’s best-known Indigenous artists, whose work “the market couldn’t get enough of”.

Minnie’s style was spontaneous, and typified by “bold” and “vibrant” colour executed with great freedom. Minnie’s paintings include two main design themes. The first is free-flowing and parallel lines in a pendulous outline, depicting the body painting designs used in women’s ceremonies, or awelye. The second theme involves circular shapes, used to symbolise bush tomato (*Solanum chippendalei*), bush melon, and northern wild orange (*Capparis umbonata*), among a number of forms of bushfood represented in her works. Together, the designs were characterised by one reviewer as “broad, luminescent flowing lines and circles”.

Photo from ‘Anemangkerr (melon)’ top right was first Acquired Oct 2003 as is currently available for purchase. Painted three years before her death, this painting represents the Dreaming story of Anemangkerra, a small melon-like fruit with black seeds that belongs to Minnie’s country, Atnwengerrp.

Her death in 2006 saw Minnie leaving a substantial body of works which are well sought after by collectors and enthusiasts alike. This is your opportunity to invest in her art and in history.

Below are some recent price comparisons:

