

Altjira

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ABN: 23 802 380 750

CAT NO: KP87NTNNS

"BUSH SEEDS"

KATHLEEN PETYARRE

ATNANGKERE (UTOPIA) NT

ALYAWARRE/ EASTERN ANMATYERRE

ACRYLIC ON BELGIUM LINEN

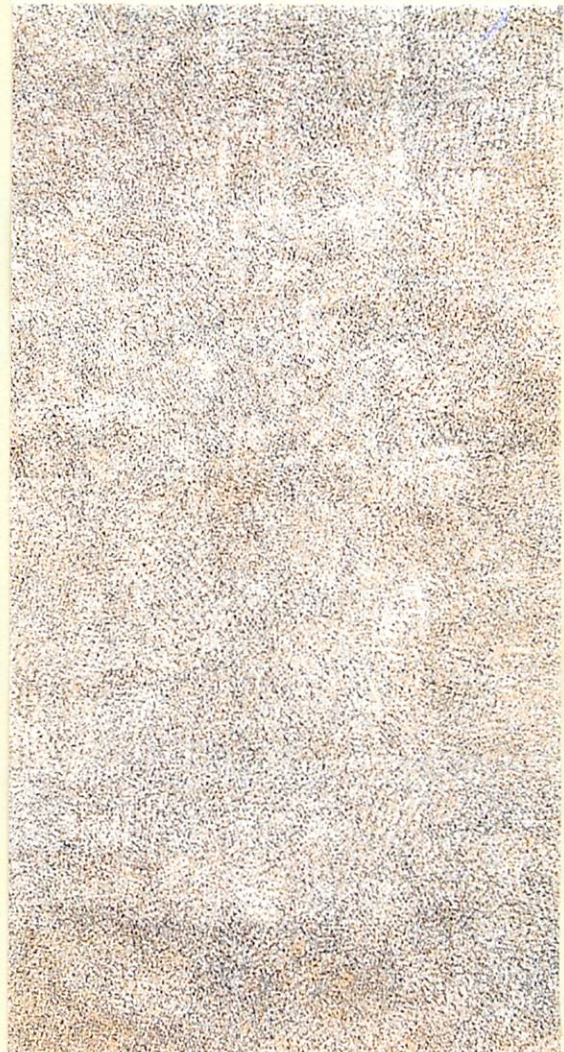
151 X 81 CM

During the Dreamtime it is believed that *Arnkerrth*, (Thorny Devil Lizard) used to collect and carry ochre colours in a pouch located at the back of its neck. As it walked the land it would deposit these ochre colours in various areas throughout the country. The people would then use these colours in their body painting ceremonies.

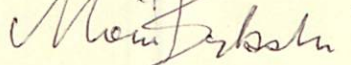
As Kathleen puts it: 'In my paintings, *Arnkerrth* is walking, walking, through her country, getting ready for ceremony, for girls and boys too. A long walk! On her back, (she is) carrying everything - special red ochre for ceremony, hairstring for ceremony, seeds, everything. She's crossing over other Dreaming(s), all on Atnangker country, Green Bean Dreaming, Dingo Dreaming, Seed Dreaming - all on that country....this old Lady Arnkerrth Dreaming - my Dreaming - shows us about the initiation of all the young Anmatyerr girls.'

The small dots depicted throughout the painting represent (ntang) a variety of seed. These seeds are an important food supply for Aboriginal people they are also used as a bush medicine. The older women would take the young girls to different places around Utopia to collect the seeds. Back at camp the seeds are dried and some are boiled to extract the resin. Kangaroo or emu fat is mixed into the resin, creating a paste, that can be stored for a long time in bush conditions. The medicine is used to heal cuts, wounds, bites, rashes and also acts as an insect repellent. The seeds are also an important food for the "traditional healer" (ngangkar).

This sacred lizard carries a Dreamtime story that is passed from generation to generation and the swag like lump on its back represents the Dreamtime.



CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY: I certify that this is an original and genuine work of Australian Aboriginal Art painted by Kathleen Petyarre at Alice Springs NT during August 2007.

Signed:  (Mirsa Bojkovski)

Date: 24.6.09

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