

'My father once said, "We know we cannot live in the past, but the past lives in us." *art + soul* is a journey into the world of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and the cultural heritage we share as Australians.'

HETTI PERKINS

art + soul

exhibition



PRESS
RELEASE

ART
GALLERY
NSW

art+soul

A journey into the world of Aboriginal Art



Mervyn Bishop *Save the children pre-school, Nambucca Heads 1974*



Destiny Deacon *Waiting for Goddess 1994*

As part of the soon-to-be-aired *art + soul* television series for ABC TV, written and narrated by Hetti Perkins and the book, *art + soul*, the Art Gallery of New South Wales presents the *art + soul* exhibition during an 'Open Weekend at the Gallery' which will celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art and culture.

The exhibition highlights the artists and art featured in the ground-breaking three-part documentary series. **Some of the 40 plus artists include: Destiny Deacon, Richard Bell, Mervyn Bishop, Tommy McRae, Ricky Maynard, Ginger Riley Munduwalawala, Judy Watson, Brenda L Croft, Emily Kam Ngwararay, John Mawurndjul, Naata Nungurrayi and Rusty Peters.**

art + soul explores the diversity of Indigenous culture through three themes: 'home and away', 'dreams and nightmares' and 'bitter and sweet'. Drawing on key works from the Gallery's collection, it reveals the myriad of contemporary artistic expressions that evidence the enduring heritage of Indigenous Australia, in all its diversity and complexity.

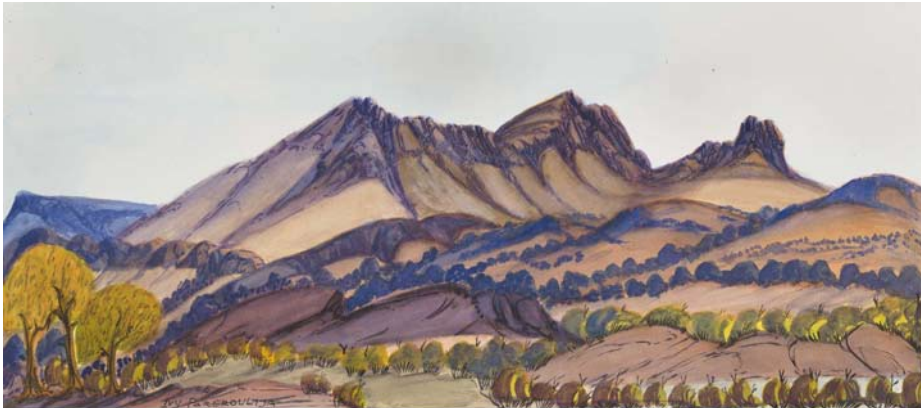
This exhibition captures the remarkable energy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, from the Papunya Tula Artists, the renowned art movement that had its humble beginnings in the early 1970s to Rover Thomas and his phenomenal achievements in the East Kimberley right up to the present day 'black city culture'.

art + soul will showcase more than 100 works and objects.

Hetti Perkins is Senior Curator of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

above: Ginger Riley Munduwalawala *Ngak Ngak and the Ruined City 1998*

ART
GALLERY
NSW



Ivy Pareroutlja Mt Sonder Lookout 2009



Mervyn Bishop Prime Minister Gough Whitlan pours soil into the hands of traditional land owner Vincent Lingiari Northern Territory 1975, printed 1999



Ricky Maynard Custodians 2005

• **art + soul** exhibition on view from 2 October 2010

• **Open Weekend at the Gallery 2–4 October**

To celebrate Aboriginal art and culture, the opening of the *art + soul* exhibition, tv series and book, the gallery is holding an Open Weekend where people can meet some of the artists highlighted in the tv series and book. There will be artists' workshops, celebrity talks, children's programs, film and music.

• **art + soul** tv series directed by Warwick Thornton screens on ABC1 at 8.30pm from Thursday 7 October

• **art + soul** book (Miegunyah Press) available October 4

For further information:

Susanne Briggs

T: (02) 9225 1791

M: 0412 268 320

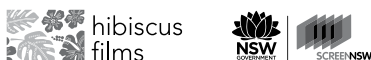
E: susanneb@ag.nsw.gov.au



Principal sponsor of the Yiribana Gallery since 1995



Open weekend is an associated event of Art & About Sydney 2010 presented by City of Sydney



art + soul is presented by Screen Australia and Hibiscus Films in association with Screen NSW, the Art Gallery of New South Wales and the Australia Council for the Arts

cover: Patrick Mung Mung *Ngarrgooroon country* 2006, natural pigments on canvas. Purchased with funds provided by Warawara Department of Indigenous Studies, Macquarie University 2006 © Patrick Mung Mung, courtesy Warmun Art Centre

Ginger Riley *Munduwalawala Ngak Ngak and the Ruined City* 1998, synthetic polymer paint on canvas. Purchased under the terms of the Florence Turner Blake Bequest 1999 © Estate Ginger Riley Munduwalawala, courtesy Alcaston Gallery

Mervyn Bishop *Save the children pre-school, Nambucca Heads* 1974, printed 2008, gelatin silver photograph. Purchased under the terms of the Florence Turner Blake Bequest 2008 © Mervyn G Bishop. Licenced by Viscopy, Sydney

Destiny Deacon *Waiting for Goddess* 1994, colour bubble-jet print from Polaroid photograph. Purchased 1996

Ivy Pareroutlja *Mt Sonder Lookout* 2009, watercolour on paper on board. Purchased with funds provided by Niall and Freya Edwards FitzSimons 2009 © Ivy Pareroutlja, courtesy Ngurratjuta Itjja Ntjarra Many Hands Art Centre

Mervyn Bishop *Prime Minister Gough Whitlan pours soil into the hands of traditional land owner Vincent Lingiari Northern Territory* 1975, printed 1999, type R3 photograph. Hallmark Cards Australian Photography Collection Fund 1991 © Mervyn G Bishop. Licenced by Viscopy, Sydney

Ricky Maynard *Custodians* 2005, printed 2009, gelatin silver photograph, selenium toned. Purchased with funds provided by the Aboriginal Collection Benefactors' Group and the Photography Collection Benefactors' Program 2009 © Ricky Maynard. Licenced by Viscopy, Sydney

