

Emily Kame Kngwarreye c.1910 - 1996

Represented by Utopia Art Sydney since 1988
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Born: Alhalkere, NT
Lived and worked Utopia, NT
1992 Awarded Australian Artists Creative Fellowship

For the entirety of her painting career Emily Kame Kngwarreye was the name by which Kngwarreye was known. It's the name on the back of her paintings, on documentation, in catalogues, newspaper articles and books. It is the only name used in all that time.

In 2010 the latest update to the orthography would change the spelling, but as Kngwarreye passed away more than a decade prior, we are retaining the spelling used in her lifetime.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2026 Fondation Opale, Switzerland
'The Turning Season', Pace, New York, USA
- 2025 TATE Modern, London, UK
'My Country' Pace London, UK
- 2023-24 National Gallery Australia, Canberra, ACT
- 2022 'Emily: Desert Painter of Australia', Gagosian Gallery, Paris, France
- 2020 'STRONG', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
'Emily', High Line Nine Gallery, New York, USA
- 2016 'Awelye 1994', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2008 'Emily Kame Kngwarreye - Utopia: The Genius of Emily Kame Kngwarreye,' National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan, National Art Center, Tokyo, Japan
'Emily Kame Kngwarreye - Utopia: The Genius of Emily Kame Kngwarreye', National Museum of Australia, Canberra, ACT
- 2007 'Earthly Reflections of Heavenly Things', The Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne, VIC
- 2006 'Ten Years On' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2002 'Discomfort: relationships within Aboriginal Art' Fireworks Gallery, QLD
'Emily' paintings by Emily Kame Kngwarreye from the Holmes a Court Collection, WA
- 2000 'Paintings' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
'Alhalkere: Paintings from Utopia' Queensland Art Gallery; AGNSW;
National Gallery of Victoria; National Gallery of Australia
- 1997 'Looking Back' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 1996 'Emily Kngwarreye c.1910-1996' Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
- 1995 'The First Ochres' Lauraine Diggins Fine Art, VIC
'A New Expression' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
'Emily Kngwarreye - Selected Masterpieces, The Delmore Collection' Mary Place Gallery, NSW
- 1994 'New Directions' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 1993 'A Major Work' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
'Recent Paintings by Emily Kame Kngwarreye' Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
- 1992 'Alhalkere: A Solo Show' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
- 1991 Utopia Art Sydney, Sydney, NSW
Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
Hogarth Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1990 Coventry Gallery, Sydney, NSW
Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
'First Solo Show' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW

Group Exhibitions

- 2025 Art Basel, Pace, UK
- 2024 Sydney Contemporary 2024, Carriageworks, Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
Frieze London, Pace Gallery, London UK
- 2022-24 'Ever Present: First Peoples Art of Australia' works from the NGA and Wesfarmers Arts. Touring
AGWA Perth, NGS Singapore, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tamaki, NZ, NGA, Canberra.
- 2023 Sydney Contemporary 2023, Carriageworks, Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
'35' Utopia Art Sydney, Sydney, NSW
14th Gwangju Biennale, Korea,
'Sol LeWitt: Affinities and Resonances', AGNSW, Sydney, NSW
- 2021-23 'A Year In Art: Australia 1992', Tate Modern, United Kingdom
- 2020-21 'Know my Name', National Gallery of Australia, ACT

- 2020 'The Future is Female: Love Letters', CODA Museum, Apeldoorn, Netherlands
 'It's not FAIR', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Desert Painters of Australia: Two Generations', Gagosian, Hong Kong
- 2019 'Desert Painters of Australia' Paintings from the Steve Martin Collection', Gagosian New York, and Los Angeles, USA
 Australian Abstraction, Utopia Art Sydney, NSW,
 Sydney Contemporary 2019, Carriageworks, Sydney, NSW
- 2018 Wild West, Foundation De 11 Lijnen, Oudenburg, Belgium
- 2017 'Museum III', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Who's Afraid of Colour', NGV, Melbourne, VIC
 'This is a Voice' Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (Powerhouse), Sydney
- 2016 'Drawing Room', Tamworth Regional Gallery, NSW
 'Everywhen: The Eternal Present in Indigenous Art from Australia', Harvard Art Museums, USA
 'The Last Hurrah', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Sixth Sense', National Art School Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2015 'Chroma: the Jim Cobb Gift', Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
 'Sydney Contemporary 2015', Carriageworks, Sydney, NSW
- 2014 Sol LeWitt: Your mind is exactly at that line, AGNSW, Sydney, NSW
 'Abstraction', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2013 'The Salon', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'No Boundaries', Bayside Arts & Cultural Centre, VIC
 'LANDSCAPE', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2012 'Tell Me Tell Me: Australian and Korean Art 1976 – 2011', National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea
 'Abstraction', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Volume One: MCA Collection', Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, NSW
 'Kunga: Les Femmes de Loi du Desert (Law Women From the Desert)', the collection of Arnaud et Berengere Servat, Galerie Carry On / Art Aborigene, Geneva,
 'Almanac: The Gift of Ann Lewis AO', Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, NSW
 'Almanac: The Gift of Ann Lewis AO', Tweed River Art Gallery, NSW
 'paperworks', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Ancestral Modern: Australian Aboriginal Art from the Kaplan & Levi Collection', Seattle Art Museum, USA
 'Interconnected', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 Melbourne Art Fair, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, VIC
- 2011 'Tell Me Tell Me: Australian and Korean Art 1976 – 2011', MCA at the National Art School Gallery, Sydney
 'Almanac: The Gift of Ann Lewis AO', Wollongong City Gallery, NSW
 'Remembering Forward' Museum Ludwig, Germany
- 2010-11 'Gooch's Utopia: collected works from the Central Desert', Flinders University Art Museum and Riddoch Art Gallery touring exhibition, Moree Plains Gallery, Moree, NSW; Civic Hall Galleries, Port Lincoln, SA; Gympie Regional Gallery, Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum, QLD; Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, VIC
 'Up Close and Personal: works from the collection of Dr Peter Elliott AM', S. H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2010 'Museum III' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Remembering Forward' Museum Ludwig, Germany
 'Desert Country', Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
 'Almanac: The Gift of Ann Lewis AO', Museum of Contemporary Art, NSW
- 2009 'Abstraction', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 '5th Annual Shalom Gamarada Aboriginal Art Exhibition', Shalom College UNSW, Sydney
 'Almanac: The Gift of Ann Lewis AO', Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, NSW
- 2008 'Australian Abstraction', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Melbourne Art Fair', Royal Exhibition Building, VIC
 'Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Gloria Petyarre & Ada Bird Petyarre – more than stories', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Gooch's Utopia: collected works from the central desert', Flinders University, Adelaide, SA
- 2007 'Turning 20', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2006 'Dreaming Their Way - Australian Aboriginal Women Painters', National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC
 'Bits and Pieces - abstract art' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2004 'Silk – Utopia Batiks from The Holmes à Court Collection', Holmes à Court Gallery, Perth, WA
 'Talking About Abstraction' Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney, NSW
 'The Women's Show' Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
 'Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Maxie Tjampitjinpa – Classic Images' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 2003 Australian Contemporary Aboriginal Art in Prague', Toskansky Place, Czech Republic
 'Australian Art' National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT
 'In Conversation', Queensland University Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
- 2002 'The Year In Review' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Structures of Difference' Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT, USA
 'Indigenous works on paper' Damien Minton Gallery, NSW
 'Lines I' Fire-Works Gallery, QLD
 'A Way Through' The Sue and Ian Bernadt Collection, Aboriginal paintings by women artists, Central TAFE Art Gallery, Northbridge, WA
 'Museum', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW

- 'Dreamtime: the Dark and the Light', Kunst der Gegenwart, Sammlung Essl, Vienna, Austria
 'Desert Flowering: Aboriginal Art from Private Collections', Manawatu Gallery, NZ
- 2000 'Contemporary Australian Aboriginal Art in Modern Worlds' State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, Russia; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT
- 2004 'Utopia: Ancient Cultures New Forms', Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, WA
 'Home and Away: Contemporary Australian and New Zealand Art from the Chartwell Collection' Auckland Art Gallery, NZ
 'A Selection of Important Twentieth Century Australian Paintings' Martin Browne Fine Art, Sydney, NSW
 'Emily Kame Kngwarreye and Rover Thomas', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 1998 'Utopia: Ancient Cultures New Forms', Galeri Petronis, Malaysia
 'Fluent 47th Biennale'. Touring: The Art Gallery of NSW; Drill Hall Gallery- ANU, ACT; Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, VIC; Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery, TAS; Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide, SA; Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, WA.
- 1997 'Large Scale Painting from the Holmes à Court Collection' Cullity Gallery, University of WA, Perth, WA
 'What is Aboriginal Art?' Ivan Dougherty Gallery, College of Fine Arts, Sydney, NSW
 'Fluent: La Biennale Di Venezia 1997' Australian Pavilion, Venice Biennale, Italy
 'Flagging the Republic' Grafton Regional Gallery, touring exhibition, NSW
 'Nineteeninetyseven' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'The Eye of the Storm; Eight Contemporary Indigenous Australian Artists' MCA Sydney, NSW
- 1996 'Voices of the Earth', Jehangir Nicholson Museum National Centre for Performing Arts, Mumbai; The Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Bangalore, India
 'Spirit and Place', Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, NSW
 'The Eye of the Storm; Eight Contemporary Indigenous Australian Artists' NGA, Canberra, ACT
 'Fifth Australian Contemporary Art Fair' Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, VIC
 'Return from the Art Fair', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Contemporary Abstract Aboriginal Art', Sherman Galleries, Sydney, NSW
 'Aboriginal Australian Art', Seattle Art Museum, USA
 'Dots', National Gallery of Victoria, VIC
 'Women Hold Up Half the Sky', Monash University Gallery, VIC
 'The Third National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Art Award', Old Parliament House, Canberra, ACT
 'The Gesture', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'This is my country. This is me', Seattle Art Museum, USA
 'Utopia Women', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Flagging the Republic', Sherman Galleries; New England Regional Art Museum; touring exhibition, NSW
 'Contemporary Australian Abstraction', Niagara Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 1995 'Painted Dreams: Western Desert Paintings from the Johnson Collection', AGNSW, Sydney,
 'Creators and Inventors: 130 years of Australian Women's Art', NGV, VIC
 'Asia & Oceania Influence', Ivan Dougherty Gallery, Sydney, NSW
 'Pathways', Queensland Art Gallery, QLD
 'Works On Paper', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 International Works on Paper Fair, Mitchell Galleries, State Library of NSW, Sydney
 'New Works New Directions: Recent Acquisitions by the Chartwell Collection', Waikato Museum of Art and History Te Whare Taonga o Waikato, NZ
 'Stories: A Journey Around Big Things: Work by 11 Aboriginal Artists, The Holmes à Court Collection, Sprengel Museum, Hanover, Germany; Museum für Volkerkunde zu Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany; Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany; Ludwig-Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany
 '1995' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Emily Kngwarreye and Ian Fairweather' Niagara Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 1994 'Yiribana', Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
 'The Range', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 ACAF 4, Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, VIC
 'Identities: Art from Australia', Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan and Wollongong City Gallery, NSW
 'The Body Paint Collection', Bishop Museum, Hawaii and tour, USA
 'The Land', N.G.A. Canberra, ACT
 'Desert Painting', Fire-Works Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
 'Yiribana: An Introduction to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Collection', AGNSW Sydney, NSW
 'Ink Lines: Mapping the Printer', Coe-ee Aboriginal Art, Sydney, NSW
 'This Land: A Celebration' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
- 1993 'Tjukurrpa Desert Dreamings', Aboriginal Art From Central Australia 1971-1993 AGWA, Perth, WA
 'Flash Pictures by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists' NGA, Canberra, ACT
 Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide (1993-1994)
 New England Regional Art Museum, Armidale, NSW
 Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, Townsville, QLD
 The Araluen Centre for Arts & Entertainment, Alice Springs, NT
 'Joan & Peter Clemenger Triennial Exhibition of Contemporary Australian Art', National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
 'After the Field A Contemporary Australian Abstraction', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Chandler Coventry a Private Collection' Campbelltown City Art Gallery, NSW

- 'Aratjara - Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art' Kunstsammlung Nordrhein Westfalen, Dusseldorf, Germany, Hayward Gallery, London, and Louisiana Museum, Humblebaek, Denmark
 'Scarf', Greenway Gallery, Hyde Park Barracks. Sydney, NSW
 'Trevor Nickolls and Paintings by Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Ginger Riley, Munduwalawala and Rover Thomas', Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
- 1992 'Contemporary Aboriginal Art from the Robert Holmes à Court Collection', Moree Plains Gallery, NSW
 'Crossroads Toward a New Reality', The National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto and The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
 'Bubbles, Baubles and Beads', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'A.C.A.F. 3' Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, VIC
 'Aboriginal Art - Utopia in the Desert' Nogazaka Arthall, Tokyo, Japan
 'Nineteen Ninety Two New Work' Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'My Story My Country: Aboriginal Art and the Land' AGNSW, Sydney, NSW
 'Aboriginal Paintings from the Desert', State Ethnographic Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia; Byelorussian State Museum of Art, Minsk, Byelorussia; Riga, Latvia
 'Paintings by Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Gloria Petyarre and Ada Bird Petyarre, Utopia', Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
 'Aboriginal Art from Australia' The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1991 'Aboriginal Women's Exhibition', AGNSW, Sydney, NSW
 'Utopia Batik', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Flash Picture', Australian National Gallery, ACT
 'Utopia', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Aboriginal Art & Spirituality', High Court, ACT
 'Contemporary Aboriginal Art from the Holmes à Court Collection', AGNSW, Sydney, NSW
 'Images of Women', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
 'A Picture Story', Meat Market Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
 'Contemporary Aboriginal Painting', Benalla Art Gallery, Benalla, VIC
 'Paintings from the Desert', Moscow, Russia
 'Australian Aboriginal Art from the Collection of Donald Kahn', Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, USA
 'Aboriginal Paintings from the Desert', Union Gallery, Moscow, Russia
- 1990 'The Last Show', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Abstraction', AGNSW, Sydney, NSW
 'Contemporary Aboriginal Art', Harvard University and touring the U.S.A. and Australia
 'Painting from the Desert, Contemporary Aboriginal Paintings', Plimsoll Gallery, University of Tasmania, TAS
 'New Acquisitions', National Gallery of Victoria, VIC
 'ARCO', Madrid, Spain
 'CAAMA/Utopia Artists in Residence Project', Perth Institute of Contemporary Art, WA
 'A.C.A.F. 2', Exhibition Building, Melbourne, VIC
 'Utopia Artists', Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
 'New Year - New Art', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'A Picture Story', Tandanya, Adelaide, SA
 The Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, Ireland
- 1989 'Utopia Women' Coventry Gallery, Sydney in association with Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'Art from Utopia', Austral Gallery, St. Louis, USA
 'A Summer Project', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney; Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
 'Utopia Batik', Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, NT
 'Mythscales', National Gallery of Victoria, VIC
- 1988 'Contemporary Aboriginal Art', Utopia Art Sydney, NSW
 'A Changing Relationship', S.H. Ervin Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 1987 Exhibited with the *Utopia Women* in exhibitions in Australia and abroad.

Collections

Allens, Sydney, NSW
Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs, NT
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, WA
Artbank, AUS
Artizon Museum, Japan
Art Institute of Chicago, USA
Auckland City Art Gallery, Auckland, NZ
Australian National University Collection, ACT
Benalla Art Gallery, VIC
Campbelltown City Art Gallery, NSW
Chartwell Collection, New Zealand
Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney, NSW
Fondation Opale, Switzerland
Holmes à Court Collection, WA
James D. Wolfensohn Collection
The Kasumi Co, Collection, Japan
Kelton Foundation, Los Angeles, USA
KLM Collection, Amsterdam
Klughe-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection, USA
Levi Kaplan Collection, Seattle, Washington, USA
Martin/Stringfield Collection, USA
Macquarie University Art Gallery, NSW
Musée de Quai Branly, Paris, France
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territories, NT
Museum of Contemporary Art, NSW
Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
Museum of Victoria, VIC
National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., USA
National Gallery of Australia, ACT
National Gallery of Victoria, VIC
National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan
Orange Regional Gallery, NSW
Parliament House Art Collection, ACT
Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art, QLD
Riddoch Art Gallery, SA
Sammlung Klein, Germany
Seattle Art Museum, USA
SEHWA Museum of Art, Seoul
Transfield Collection, NSW
Tate Gallery, London, UK
University of New England, NSW
University of New South Wales, NSW
The Vatican Collection, Rome

References and Publications

ALLEN, L.
GREEN, C
BARKLEY, G
/KIM, I
BIDDLE, J L
BOULTER, M.
/HODGES, C.
BOULTER, M.
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CARUANA, W.
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NEALE, M
PESTORIUS, D
QUEENSLAND
ART GALLERY
'Women's Work: Aboriginal Artifacts in the Museum of Victoria' 1995
'Peripheral Vision: Contemporary Art 1970-1994', 1995
'Tell Me Tell Me: Australian and Korean Art 1976 – 2011',
exhibition cat., MCA at National Art School Gallery, Sydney & National Museum of
Contemporary Art, Korea, 2011
'breasts, bodies, canvas', Central Desert Art as Experience 2007
'Australia's First International Art Movement', Utopia Art Sydney, 1990
'The Art of Utopia', Craftsman House Press, 1991
'Contemporary Aboriginal Art', Heytesbury, 1990
'Utopia-A Picture Story', Heytesbury Holdings, Perth, 1990
'Utopia - A Picture Story: 88 Works on Silk', cat. Aboriginal Cultural Institute Inc., Adelaide,
1989
Utopia Women's Paintings: The Robert Holmes à Court Collection',
Heytesbury Holdings, cat., Perth 1989
'Large Scale Painting from the Holmes à Court Collection', exhibition cat. UWA 1997.
'Aboriginal Art', Thames and Hudson, 1993
'Representing Emily', Artist Profile Magazine, 2024
'STRONG', Utopia Art Sydney catalogue 2020
Essay, 'Emily Kame Kngwarreye: Alhalkere paintings from Utopia' 1998
'Utopia Women', Coventry Gallery, cat. Sydney, 1989
A Place for Art: the University of Wollongong Art Collection, 2012
'Emily Kam Kngwarray' 2024
'Marking our times: selected works of art from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
collection at the National Gallery of Australia', 1996.
'Under A Southern Sun: Stories from the Australia Landscape' CD-ROM.
'Across the Desert', Aboriginal Batik from Central Australia, 2008
'Utopia: The Genius of Emily Kame Kngwarreye', catalogue for National Museum of
Australia, 2008
'Utopia: The Genius of Emily Kame Kngwarreye', catalogue for The National Museum of
Art, Osaka, & The National Art Centre, Tokyo, Japan, 2008
'YIRIBANA', AGNSW 1994
'Women Artists of Utopia', A.N.G. Association News, May/June 1991, A.N.G. Canberra
'In Conversation' University Art Museum, University of Queensland 2003
'Emily Kame Kngwarreye: Alhalkere paintings from Utopia',
Macmillan 1998.

RAFFAN, J 'Power+Colour: New Painting from the Corrigan Collection of 21st Century Aboriginal Art',
Macmillan Art Publishing, 2012

TALMACS, R. 'Philosophical Abstractions' 1992

TOIBIN, C 'Emily Kame Kngwarreye' 2020, Thames and Hudson mini monograph series

VARIOUS 'Kunga: Les Femmes de Loi du Desert (Law Women From the Desert)', the collection of
Arnaud et Berengere Serval, exhibition catalogue, Galerie Carry On / Art Aborigene,
Geneva, March 2012