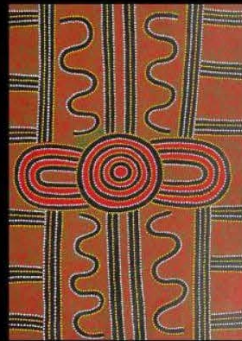
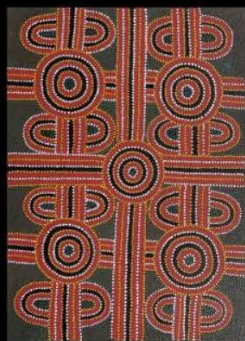


The  
Strand  
Gallery



Selected works by

Gloria Petyarre and David (Dave) Ross Pwerle

## *Respect and Acknowledgment*

This document contains the names of deceased First Nations people. We pay respect to the Anmatyerre people across generations. Gloria Tamerre Petyarre and David(Dave) Ross Pwerle were connected with Utopia, which lies on the traditional boundary of the Alywarre and Anmatyerre people. There is extensive information available about these Artists and we have made a small selection from reputable sources.

The Strand Gallery also acknowledges that the gallery is on the traditional lands of the Ngarrindjeri Nation and recognise their connection to both land and the sea. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We wish to advise that our resource material may contain images, voices and videos of Indigenous people who are deceased.

## *Overview*

This important collection of the work of Gloria Tamerre Petyarre and David (Dave) Ross Pwerle has been held by the Heywood-Smith Family since 2003. The Stand Gallery has extensive documentation about how these works were ethically acquired and their provenance. They have been displayed at Divett Place Law Chambers and Anthony Mason Chambers for several years.

In August 2023, Paul and Edie Heywood-Smith visited Musée du quai Branly in Paris, to review the connection of these two artists with this important French Indigenous Art Gallery. It is interesting that both Gloria and David have connections to France and have been recognised by institutions there as significant Aboriginal artists. The number of exhibitions that these artist have had both nationally and overseas is extensive and their work has been recognised by many significant awards.

*'To see these beautiful paintings in the Strand Gallery brings mixed feelings. They have been a big part of my life for twenty years. From the time that I acquired them when acting for Utopia's Director in Alice Springs and Darwin, until my retirement, I saw them on a daily basis in my work chambers. Unfortunately, my house is not big enough!' - Paul Heywood-Smith 2023*

The series of gouaches '*Secret Men's Business*' by David Ross Pwerle, are a testament to his knowledge and skill, as well as the respect, he commanded as a senior law man. It has been said that the concentric circles in his work are symbolic of stopping and camping on country for the unique impartation of sacred knowledge, while the various lines relate to schematized maps of his sacred country and that the colours also have secret meanings and symbolism in relation to totems and ritual.

*'To him, everything matters, including attitude, intonation and it must be done right in the first place'<sup>1</sup>*

This series of eight works displayed, are integrated and have been kept as a group since 1995.

<sup>1</sup> Jan Ross-Manley  
Correspondence to Paul Heywood-Smith. February 2007

The works by Gloria Tamerre Petyarre are unique in that they are a strong representative body of her best work. These paintings are about the Arnrkerthe (Mountain Devil Lizard) which is of her primary dreaming. They have a strong presence and integrity. The interpretation and response to this totem requires an understanding of imagery and country to create very specific works. Her subsequent works of beautiful leaf patterns are more illustrative.

It has been said that Gloria was critically aware of her position in the art world and through international travel, exposure to other cultures developed her creative vision. However, she unwaveringly retained her deep roots and close ties to her country, her traditional law and *Awelye* <sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Nevill Drury, Anna Voight 'Fire and Shadow: *Spirituality in Contemporary Australian Art*, Harper Collins Publishers 1996, 1999

# Gloria Petyarre



*'Arnkerrthe'*

*Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming*

Series I

Acrylic on linen

122cm x 196cm

## *About Gloria Petyarre, 1942 – 2021*

Gloria was born in Utopia, Northern Territory and her language group was Anmatyerre. She was one of the most significant artists from this region. In 1990 and 1991, Gloria travelled to Ireland, London and India as a representative of the Utopia women, accompanying the group exhibition *'Utopia – A Picture Story'* Her dreamings are about the Arnkerth, the Mountain or Thorny Devil Lizard and Awelye, the women's body design and stories related to a variety of bush foods. Gloria's first solo exhibition was in 1991 at Australian Galleries in New York. This exhibition was also shown at Utopia Art in Sydney. From 1993 to 1995, Gloria had more solo exhibitions at Utopia Gallery, Sydney. Other exhibitions featuring Gloria's paintings include the Aboriginal Women's Exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, *'Flash Painting'* at the National Gallery of Australia, and *'The Body Paint Collection'*, which toured the United States. In recent years, Gloria experimented with line and colour with a high level of conceptual development and abstraction.

In late 1999, Gloria won the coveted Wynne Landscape Prize which reaffirms her position as a significant contemporary Aboriginal artist. Gloria's name is included in Australian Art Collector's *'50 Most Collectible Australian Artists'*. Her work features in *'The Art of Utopia'* by Michael Boulter, *'Fire and Shadow'* by Anna Voight; *'New Visions. New Perspectives'* by Anna Voight and in *'Dreamings of the Desert'* published by The Art Gallery of South Australia. Gloria's work is in the collection of most major State Art Galleries and in the Holmes à Court collection. Her work is rich in texture and layering, revealing an extraordinary eye for colour and pattern, assuring her place as one of Australia's most collected Aboriginal artists. Her work has been extensively exhibited nationally and internationally, including Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT, National Gallery of Victoria Queensland Art Gallery, *'Icons of Australian Aboriginal Art'*, Singapore, *Art from the Dreamtime'*, Portland Art Museum.

### Sources:

Nevill Drury, Anna Voight *'Fire and Shadow: Spirituality in Contemporary Australian Art.'* Harper Collins Publishers 1996, 1999



*'Arnkerrthe'*

*Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming*  
Series II  
Synthetic polymer on paper  
68cm x 48cm



*'Arnkerrthe'*

*Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming*  
Series III  
Synthetic polymer on paper  
68cm x 48cm



*'Arnkerrthe'*

*Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming*  
Series IV  
Synthetic polymer on paper  
68cm x 48cm



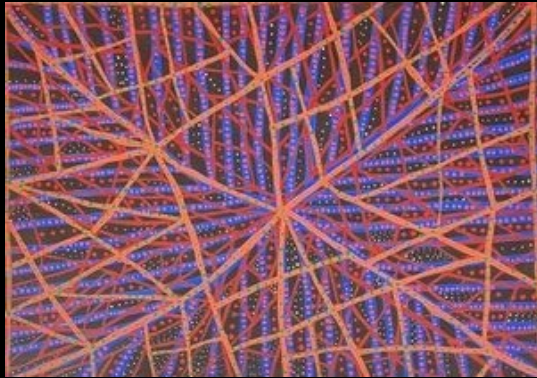
'Arnkerrthe'

Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming Series V  
Synthetic polymer on paper 68cm x 48cm



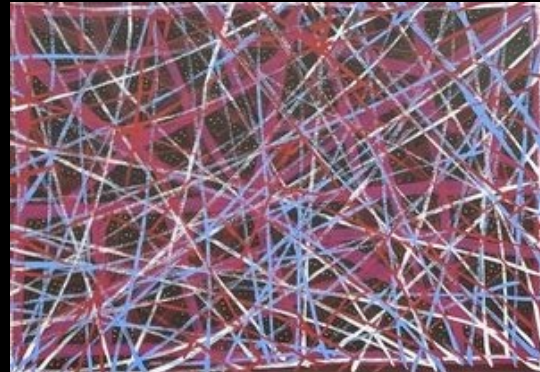
'Arnkerrthe'

Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming Series VI  
Synthetic polymer on paper 68cm x 48cm



'Arnkerrthe'

Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming Series VII  
Synthetic polymer on paper 68cm x 48cm



'Arnkerrthe'

Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming Series VIII  
Synthetic polymer on paper 68cm x 48cm



*'Arnkerrthe'*

*Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming*  
Series IX  
Synthetic polymer on paper  
68cm x 48cm



*'Arnkerrthe'*

*Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming*  
Series X  
Synthetic polymer on paper  
68cm x 48cm



*'Arnkerrthe'*

*Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming*  
Series XI  
Synthetic polymer on paper  
68cm x 48cm





*'Arnkerrthe'*

*Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming*

Series XII

Synthetic polymer on paper

68cm x 48cm



*'Arnkerrthe'*

*Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming*

Series XIII

Synthetic polymer on paper

68cm x 48cm



*'Arnkerrthe'*

*Mountain Devil Lizard Dreaming*

Series XIV

Synthetic polymer on paper

68cm x 48cm

## *About David (Dave) Ross Pwerle, 1933 – 2019*

David Ross Pwerle grew up on Utopia, Alcoota, Mt Riddock, Macdonald Downs and Delmore. His Country was the Sandover River from the Alcoota Homestead to Tommyhawk soak on Utopia. David was a quick learner a leader and highly skilled managing teams in the shearing sheds of Delmore and Macdonald Downs. He was considered an important Law Man due to vast knowledge passed on to him by his elders including his father. He was involved in important ceremonies from Alcoota to the Queensland border, near Mount Isa (over a distance of nearly 600 kilometres).

His influence extended to many of the ceremonies of the neighbouring Alyawarre and Eastern Arrernte people. He created his first painting in April 1989 and after mastering the use of the brush and acrylic paint, he embarked on his art career producing many powerful paintings. Many of these recorded the ceremonies and stories of his people. Early in his career, his paintings were acquired by the National Gallery of Victoria, Art Gallery of Western Australia and the Queensland Art Gallery. The Louvre in Paris bought one of his paintings which is now in the Musée du quai Branly.

An unusual painting of Dave's is in the Smithsonian Institute, which held a competition and exhibition for Indigenous artists around the world, sending one replica of the space shuttle 'Endeavour' to one artist in twenty six countries to paint. The entry by Dave Ross Pwerle was one of three to be acquired by the Smithsonian. A large painting was purchased from a European art collector who was also a composer and conductor for the London Philharmonic Orchestra. He was inspired to write "The Uluru Symphony" and even brought out a film crew from Europe to film Dave near Delmore, dancing and singing the story of his painting. There is extensive information from many sources about David Ross Pwerle and his skills, not only as painter and elder, but also a rain-maker, all of which commands massive esteem in a desert society.

### Sources:

<https://australianartnetwork.com.au/category/indigenous-artists/david-ross-pwerle> Accessed: 26.10/223

<https://delmoregallery.com.au/pages/dave-pwerle-ross> Accessed: 26.10/223

Jan Ross Manley Correspondence to Paul Heywood-Smith. February 2007



*'Secret Men's Business'*

Collection of 8

Gouache on paper

68cm x 48cm

# The Strand Gallery

Selected works by

Gloria Petyarre

David (Dave) Ross Pwerle

The Strand Gallery,

41 The Strand, Port Elliot.

Open Saturday and Sunday 10am to 4pm,

Other times by appointment by phoning 0419 501 648

<https://www.strandgallery.com.au>

[sonya.hender@hender.com](mailto:sonya.hender@hender.com)

## For Further Reading

'Dreamings of the Desert : *Aboriginal Dot Paintings of the Western Desert*' Art Gallery of South Australia, 1996

Nevill Drury, Anna Voight 'Fire and Shadow: *Spirituality in Contemporary Australian Art*' Harper Collins Publishers 1996, 1999

'Tradition Today: *Indigenous Art in Australia*' Art Gallery of New South Wales, 2004

This booklet is printed by SA Design and Print based in Port Elliot, a preferred supplier to the Strand Gallery.

<https://www.sadesignprint.net.au/>

*These QR codes may contain links to images, videos and voices of deceased Indigenous people.*



Art Gallery of New South Wales



[qagoma.qld.gov.au/creators/ross-david-pwerle](http://qagoma.qld.gov.au/creators/ross-david-pwerle)



Gloria (Tamerre) Petyarre  
[tingariarts.com](http://tingariarts.com)