

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art

FLUENT

Emily Kame Kngwarreye Yvonne Koolmatrie Judy Watson

*Australia's representative exhibition at the
47th Venice Biennale tours to ACCA*

*To be opened by Joy Murphy-Wandin, Wurrundjeri elder, followed by talks
by curator Brenda Croft and artist Judy Watson*

Opening: Thursday 4 June 6 - 8 pm

Exhibition Dates: 5 June - 5 July 1998

For the first time, in 1997, Aboriginal women represented Australia at the Venice Biennale, the most prestigious and important visual arts event in the international arts calendar. **Hetti Perkins**, curator of the exhibition, said *'The work of these Aboriginal artists stunned the international contemporary art world with its powerful vitality and rich expression. The exhibition was viewed as a fine example of the ways in which an ancient past not only informs but is the impetus for contemporary artistic concerns.'*

Kngwarreye, who passed away in 1996, is one of Australia's most significant contemporary artists. **Koolmatrie** is a leading practitioner of a rare form of Ngarrindjeri weaving traditional to the Riverland country of South Australia, and **Watson** is one of Australia's most highly regarded young contemporary artists.

The title, **Fluent**, not only suggests the visual fluidity of the artists' works and the intuitive nature of their creation, it also connotes the oral traditions of Aboriginal culture and the many languages that make up Aboriginal Australia.

Kngwarreye, Koolmatrie and Watson create individual, bold and contemporary interpretations of a heritage that is over 40,000 years old. Their work exemplifies the challenging and innovative direction both urban and regional Aboriginal art has taken in the past decade.

The exhibition has been a collaborative undertaking by independent curators Hetti Perkins and Brenda L. Croft. The exhibition has been managed by The Art Gallery of New South Wales with Victoria Lynn, the Gallery's Curator of Contemporary Art, acting as the project coordinator.

This exhibition and tour has been assisted by The Australia Council, the Federal Government's arts funding and advisory body and the support of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) is also acknowledged. The exhibition tour was made possible by the Commonwealth Government's national touring exhibitions grant program Visions of Australia. Visions of Australia aims to provide all Australians, wherever they live, with better access to the nation's cultural heritage, historic, scientific and visual arts material, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. The exhibition tour is supported by Janet Holmes à Court and The Holmes à Court Collection.

For further information, please call ACCA on tel: 9654 6422



Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Dallas Brooks Drive, South Yarra 3141 (Melways Map 2L, Ref A1)

Gallery Hours: Tues to Fri 11 - 5 Sat and Sun 2 - 5 acca@adm.monash.edu.au www.artnow.org.au

ACCA is supported by the Victorian Government through Arts Victoria - Department of Premier and Cabinet. ACCA is assisted by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

Affiliated with Monash University.