



**Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts**  
E. L. Wiegand Gallery, 160 West Liberty Street, Reno NV 89501

**MAJOR EXHIBITION OF  
ABORIGINAL CONTEMPORARY ART  
LAUNCHES NATIONAL TOUR**

**Works of Acclaimed Aboriginal Painters at the Vanguard of Contemporary Art Will Be Presented at Nevada Museum of Art, Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit and the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University  
Beginning in February 2015**



November 6, 2014—A major exhibition of nine contemporary Aboriginal Australian artists will travel to distinguished museums around the country in 2015-16, including to the Pérez Art Museum Miami during the city's annual cultural highlight Art Basel Miami Beach, December 4-7, 2014. The exhibition, *No Boundaries*,

presents the work of nine trailblazing artists who were inspired by their ancient cultural traditions to forge one of the most dynamic painting movements of recent times. The exhibition will be comprised of more than 75 paintings, created between 1992 and 2012 by nine Aboriginal men.

The turn of the 21st century was a moment of extraordinary experimentation and innovation in Australian Aboriginal contemporary art. Across the country, artists transformed their traditional iconographies into more abstract styles of mark making. The nine artists featured in *No Boundaries* were at the forefront of this movement. Each artist was a respected senior Lawman, knowledgeable in every aspect of Aboriginal ceremonial traditions. As skilled artists, they turned this knowledge into dynamic contemporary art, which can stand up next to works by artists such as Gerhard Richter, Julie Mehretu, Sean Scully, and Mark Grotjahn.

Created at the frontier where Indigenous and Western cultures meet, their paintings speak across cultures, a reminder that contemporary art comes from all corners of the globe. This exhibition offers the very first opportunity for U.S. audiences to view these nine artists' works in depth, featuring a stunning selection from each period in their careers.

Although rarely seen in the U.S., these artists stand at the vanguard of global contemporary art practice. As Jens Hoffmann, Deputy Director of the Jewish Museum in New York, writes in the catalog that accompanies the exhibition, these nine Aboriginal artists are engaged with many of the same critical questions as their Euro-American counterparts.

"As we look across the vast expanse that is contemporary abstract painting, we find many points of commonality between Western and Aboriginal practices," said Hoffman, who contributed an essay to the *No Boundaries* exhibition catalogue. "Like the Aboriginal artists in this exhibition, these contemporary painters may speak in the language of abstraction, but they are still saying something. Look behind the abstract imagery and you will find parallel stories of history, people and place."

One of the artists included in the exhibition is Warlimpirrnga Tjapaltjarri (born circa 1958), whose work was included in *DOCUMENTA (13)* in Kassel, Germany in 2012. This was a highpoint in Tjapaltjarri's career, which began in 1986, only a few short years after making international headlines as a member of the "Pintupi Nine:" one of the last groups of nomadic Aboriginal tribes to emerge from Australia's Western Desert. Tjapaltjarri's work will be shown alongside the renowned artists Paddy Bedford (c.1922-2007), Jananggoo Butcher Cherele (c.1918-2009), Tommy Mitchell (c.1943-2013), Ngarra (c.1920-2008), Prince of Wales (Midpul)(c.1938-2002), Billy Joongoora Thomas (c.1920-2012), Boxer Milner Tjampitjin (c.1935-2009) and Tjumpo Tjapanangka (c.1929-2007).

The works are drawn from the collection of Debra and Dennis Scholl, Miami-based collectors and philanthropists. After four decades of collecting cutting-edge contemporary art, the American Debra and Dennis Scholl changed their focus to Aboriginal contemporary art after encountering the extraordinary wealth of talent emerging from Northern Australia during several trips to that country. "The artists

all have a common thread,” said Dennis Scholl, “each had reached senior status in their communities and had become abstract painters who transcended the expectations of both the community and the art world.”

“We chose works by those who, to paraphrase the artist Paddy Bedford, after having painted all of their mother’s countries and all of their father’s countries, finally chose to simply paint,” continued Scholl. “These painters have gone far beyond the boundaries of their community, their ‘country,’ and the very idea of their work as merely ethnographic. They are simply painters—some of the finest abstract painters this planet has ever seen.”

The exhibition opens at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, Nev., February 14, 2015. The Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery was selected as the premiere venue because the institution’s Center for Art + Environment houses a significant Aboriginal Australian art archive.

**Exhibition Tour Schedule for:**  
***No Boundaries: Aboriginal Australian Contemporary Abstract Painting***

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, Nevada, February 14 – May 3, 2015  
Portland Institute for Contemporary Art, Portland, Oregon, June 20 – Aug. 15, 2015  
Pérez Art Museum Miami, September 17, 2015 – January 3, 2016  
Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, Michigan, January 17 – May 15, 2016  
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, June 11 – Aug. 14, 2016

**Exhibition Catalogue:**

The exhibition will be accompanied by an exceptionally illustrated catalogue, published by the Nevada Museum of Art in conjunction with DelMonico Books and Prestel Publishing, in conjunction with the Nevada Museum of Art. Henry F. Skerritt edited the catalogue and also contributed an essay. The publication includes stunning reproductions of every work in the exhibition, along with a series of essays that offer thoughtful analysis by leading art historians, curators, critics and anthropologists. Along with Skerritt, the contributors are John Carty, Edwina Circuit, William L. Fox, Stephen Gilchrist, Jens Hoffmann, Darren Jorgensen, Emily McDaniel, Ian McLean, Fred R. Meyers, Una Rey, Quentin Sprague and Luke Scholes.

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**About the Nevada Museum of Art:**

The Nevada Museum of Art is a museum of ideas. The only accredited art museum in the state, it is a private, non-profit organization supported by the generosity of its membership as well as by sponsorships and grants. Through creative programming and scholarship, the Museum provides the opportunity for people to encounter, engage and enjoy a diversity of art experiences. The Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm, late on Thursdays until 8 pm, and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and national holidays. Admission is FREE for members, \$10

General Admission, \$8 Student / Senior, \$1 children 6 to 12 years and free for children 5 and under. Annual Museum Membership starts at just \$30.

**Image Credit:** Paddy Bedford Gija. Born c.1922. Died 2007. Merrmerriji, 2004  
Natural earth pigments and synthetic binder on composition board 31 1/2 x 39 3/8  
in. (80 x 100 cm) © Paddy Bedford estate, courtesy William Mora Galleries,  
Melbourne.

**Media Contacts:**

FITZ & CO  
Anna Rosa Thomae  
annarosa@fitzandco.com  
Office: +212-627-1455

Nevada Museum of Art Contact:  
Amanda Horn, Director of Communications  
Amanda.horn@nevadaart.org  
Office: +775.398.7228  
Mobile: +775.636.2567