

A THOUSAND JOURNEYS

Aboriginal Art from North-West Australia

FRIDAY 3 JULY - SUNDAY 9
AUGUST 1998

To coincide with beginning of NAIDOC cultural week in July, Tamworth City Gallery is delighted to host A THOUSAND JOURNEYS a contemporary Aboriginal art exhibition incorporating the various regional styles from the North-West corner of Australia.

The traditional and regional artistic styles from this northwest corner (Kimberleys) are the least exhibited in Australia and yet so different in context, colour and styles from Central Australia (Papunya, Utopia Yuendumu) and Arhem Land (Oenpelli, Maningrida etc.). The exhibition will include 40 works, mainly acrylic on canvas with some carved 3D floor works. Artists include Rover Thomas, Freddy Timms, Quennie McKenzie, David Mowaljalai, Jack Britten and Paddy Jaminji.

Not since Burnum Burnum took to Australia's Highway One, has there been such a flamboyant gesture as A THOUSAND JOURNEYS to reconcile indigenous and western views of interpreting and mapping the land. Art is one of the magnets that has drawn a wide range of people to remote communities that have established their own artist's cooperatives.

The exhibition A THOUSAND JOURNEYS is the result of aviatrix and art tour operator Helen Read's personal travels across the diverse cultural domain of North Australia to visit such communities. Over the years she has assembled a collection of paintings, sculptures and fibrecraft that is presented for the first time in this exhibition. The artworks when viewed collectively are a stimulating mix of diverse media and styles from North West Australia. Taken individually they provide a window into the cultural

integrity of the discreet cultural groups who have produced them.

The journey begins at the north-west coastal community of Kalumburu in Western Australia, with the Wandjina bark paintings by Lily Karedada across to Fitzroy crossing, Turkey Creek (Warmun) and Balgo Hills. The works in the exhibition from this region illustrate the classic styles from the north-east, central and western regions of Arnhem land as well as presenting some of the skillfully crafted fibre items for which the women have become renowned. Further works from Melville and Elcho islands north of Darwin complete the journey.

The exhibition has been developed and toured by the Tin Sheds Gallery, University of Sydney.

Curated by Pauline Guthrie.

Richard Tax Tjupurulla
'Untitled' acrylic on canvas 100x50cm (1993)

