

EMILY KAME KNGWARREYE (1910-1996)

Anooralya Yam Story

Signed verso, "Emily Kngwarreye" synthetic polymer paint on linen 60 1/4 x 48 in. (61 3/4 x 49 3/4 x 2 1/2 in.) 150.88 x 121.92 cm (156.85 x 126.37 x 6.35 cm) 1994

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PROVENANCE:

The Delmore Gallery, Australia, commissioned in April 1994
Sale: Sotheby's Australia, Important Aboriginal & Oceanic Art, Monday, October 15, 2012, Lot 101
Private Collection, California, acquired from the above

One of the most celebrated Australian painters of the 20th century, Emily Kame Kngwarreye painted over 3,000 abstract acrylic paintings of dots, gestural lines, and vibrant hues, all inspired by her Aboriginal community's symbols, rituals, and daily life. Her enormously productive professional career spanned just the last eight years of her life, yet she quickly sparked an international appreciation for Aboriginal artists and "desert painters" at large. Though Kngwarreye was initially influenced by her experiences producing traditional batik textiles, her work has variously been compared to that of Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning, Mark Rothko, and Eastern calligraphic traditions—a testament to her canvases' global resonance. Kngwarreye's work belongs in the collections of the Tate, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and was exhibited at the Venice Biennale in 1997 and 2015.

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