

Ingkerr anyent-antey: The language of Batik

Like hunting and performing *awely*, the Utopia women's approach to making batik is one of exuberance. It is 'performed' with energy, enthusiasm and strength of purpose. The pieces are bold, spontaneous works filled with life, laughing and language. 'Ingkerr anyent-antey', they say. "We are all together. We are a part of everything and everything is a part of us. It's all the same thing - everything and everyone are as one."

This exhibition is a celebration of the Utopia women's strength and continuity -- an interweaving of art, language and *awely* (women's performance arts). It affirms their connection to their country, and their deep cultural knowledge.

Peta Appleyard Gallery is honoured to host this exhibition and warmly invite you to join us for the opening at 2pm Saturday 12th June 2010.

*Altyerr anwantherr mpwareyel Altyerr ikwer-angkwerr-antey apmer-angkwerr-antey
Ingwer-angkwerr mpwareyangen anwantherr mpwareyel
Apmmer renh-antey pwety-areny-anteyarl yanhan arwerl
Arwerl renh-rnem-antey akwerlp-areny
Renh-antey mpwareyel akwerlp renh-antey
Renh-antey mpwareyel akwerlp renh-antey
Rarl anganewarl-antey
Altyerr rarl anganew arwerl
Renh-antey arreneyneyel arwerl
Apmwamwam-weny-antey
Apmmerelarl rtneyel-antey
Apmmer ikwerelarl anganewarlep rtneyel arwerl-rnem
Renh-antey anwantherr arreneyel*

We are making things that come from the Dreaming and from the country
We don't do anything else, or paint any other places belonging to others
All of those plants there are from the bush
They are plants that grow in sandhill country
That's what is being made in the batik
That's where the plants originated from in the Dreaming
The plants originated in the *Altyerr* time
They are the plants that are used in the batik designs
They are very important
They are found growing in the country
These plants are found growing in the country where they were created in the ancestral time
That's what we paint in the batik
Mary Kemarr, Alyawarr, 2010

This collection of batiks was produced through the Utopia Bush Medicine Project. This project had its beginnings in late 2007 when a group of senior Alyawarr and Anmatyerr women from Utopia asked Batchelor Institute for support to document their knowledge of bush medicines. Lecturers from the Centre for Australian Languages and Linguistics and the Arts and Crafts department have been collaborating with the community through a series of workshops integrating language work, visual arts, film making and bush medicine research.