

2008 Basil Sellers Art Prize

Josie Kunoth Petyarre and Dinni Kunoth Kemarre

Josie Kunoth Petyarre and Dinni Kunoth Kemarre recently completed a project titled *Centre bounce* which consisted of vibrantly painted wooden figures depicting Australian Rules football players. These include well-known players such as Nathan Buckley, Chris Judd, Michael Long and Aaron Davey. These carved sculptures were exhibited in Melbourne at AFL World in March 2007.

Josie Kunoth Petyarre and Dinni Kunoth Kemarre live with their family on their traditional lands at the remote outstation of Pungalindum in Utopia, Central Australia. Their language group is Anmatyerr. Josie Kunoth Petyarre comes from a highly respected artistic family; her mother is Polly Kngale and her aunts are Kathleen Kngale and Angelina Pwerle. Having attended school as a girl in Alice Springs, she has been involved in the Utopia art movement since the late 1980s, when she produced batik works and paintings on canvas. Prior to becoming an artist in recent years, her husband, Dinni Kunoth Kemarre, worked at many stations in the Eastern Desert, branding and mustering cattle. Kunoth Petyarre and Kunoth Kemarre's recent work has been exhibited in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth. Their art is held in several collections, including the National Museum of Australia, Canberra; the Berndt Museum of Anthropology, the University of Western Australia, Perth; Artbank; and the Holmes à Court Collection, Perth. The artists are represented by the Mossenson Galleries, Perth and Melbourne.

- Birnberg, Margo & Janus Kreczmanski (eds), *Aboriginal artists dictionary*, JB Publishing Australia, Marlestone, SA, 2004.
- Brody, Anne Marie, *Utopia—a picture story: 88 silk batiks from the Robert Holmes à Court collection*, Heytesbury Holdings Ltd, Perth, 1990.
- ——— *Utopia women's paintings: the first works on canvas*, Heytesbury Holdings Ltd, Perth, 1989.
- Manning, Phillip, 'Carved from the heart', *AFL Record*, 5 April 2007.