

CONTINUING A LEGACY CHARMAINE PWERLE

2025



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WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE
TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND THEIR
CUSTODIANSHIP OF THE LANDS ON
WHICH THIS COLLABORATION
ORIGINATED.

We pay our respects to their Ancestors and their descendants,
who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country.





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FOREWORD

It is with great pride that we present Continuing a Legacy - a major solo exhibition by Charmaine Pwerle, marking her return to painting after a period of profound loss.

Two years ago, Charmaine's mother, the renowned artist Barbara Weir, passed away. Since then, we have quietly supported Charmaine as she navigated grief, reflection, and the profound responsibility of cultural continuation. We allowed her the time she needed, understanding that art, like healing, unfolds in its own time.

What has emerged is beyond words - a stunning collection of 33 paintings that are emotionally raw, spiritually rich, and technically masterful. These works are a testament to Charmaine's journey and to the power of art to carry memory, story, and culture forward.

We are especially honoured to share Women's Business - Old Time Way, the final story passed from Barbara to Charmaine, and to Charmaine's daughters, encapsulating the weight of generations. This piece, like the exhibition itself, reflects the beauty and challenge of continuing a legacy and the courage it takes to begin anew.

We are deeply grateful to Charmaine for trusting us to walk alongside her on this journey, and we invite you to join us in this moment - through these works, these stories, these beginnings.

ARTIST STATEMENT

*MY PAINTINGS ARE ABOUT
MY DREAMING AND ALSO
THE HAPPY MEMORIES
SPENT WITH FAMILY WHO
HAVE PASSED ON AS WELL
AS THOSE STILL AROUND.*



Months spent living off the land hunting, being taught how to look for tracks, catch goannas, dig for bush potato, witchery grubs and gathering bush tucker. Sharing our food that was collected at the end of the day, all our family gathered around the fire eating together and sharing stories. Camping out in the middle of nowhere, our swags spread out side by side, hunting during the day and laughing and connecting during the evenings.

Spending weeks staying with my Nanna Minnie and Grandpa Motorcar Jim at Soakage bore when we only had one tap to share on the community and lived in the back of an old station wagon - as there were no houses then. Sitting under the stars and learning from my wise old grandparents these are beautiful, beautiful memories I cherish.



Attending ceremonies and joining in and feeling the excitement and intense pride that runs through your body from head to toe. It feels like you've just come alive. Everything in you is singing, dancing the joy and pride that you feel is beyond anything, it's a feeling I've never experienced before. It's too hard to even explain but I still feel this way every time.

Travelling around my country as a child and then later learning about all the Dreamings that are connected to each place was so amazing, learning about how everything was created.

Listening and learning from my mum about her story, imaging her as a child travelling through the land on foot, no cars, no clothes, no shoes - really wild and free living purely off the land. Her stories are truly amazing and she is a huge inspiration for me.

I feel great pride and respect to have been trusted to be taught about my culture and learn about our stories. I am very grateful and am totally aware of how lucky I am to have this.

When my mum told me more and more stories I felt the excitement in her and I know that she truly believed in our Dreaming and so do I.

I take it as the truth of how our land and ancestors were created, and I love sharing this joy and knowledge through art.



Women's Business - Old Time Way - CPWG0465

Acrylic on Linen, 120 x 236cm

\$19,995



Awelye - CPWG0651
Acrylic on Linen, 170 x 205cm
\$19,995



Creation Story - CPWG0499

Acrylic on Linen, 123 x 184cm

\$12,500

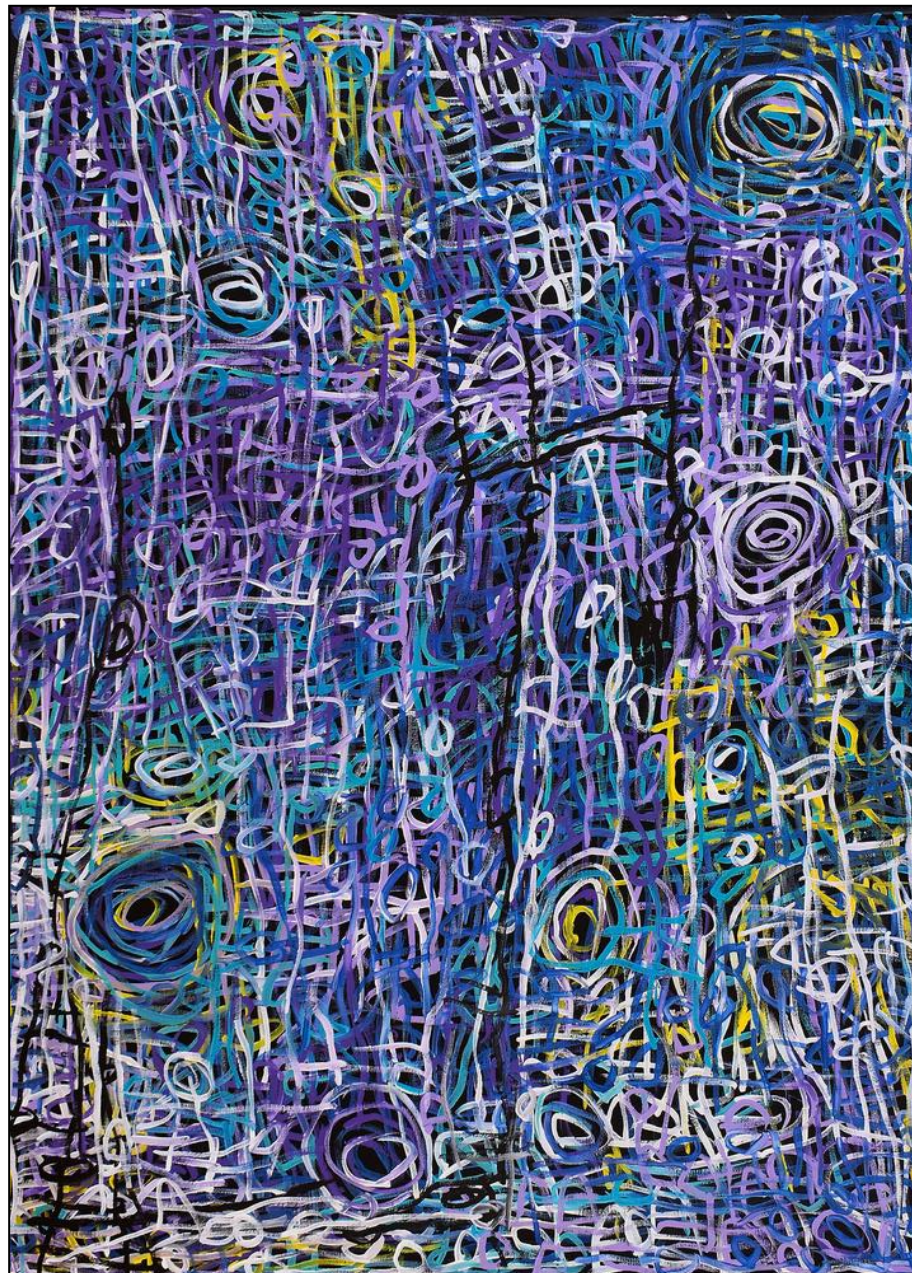


Sand Hills - CPWG0580
Acrylic on Linen, 120 x 239cm
\$24,995

The Sun - CPWG0681
Acrylic on Linen, 120 x 120cm
\$12,000



Awelye - CPWG0703
Acrylic on Linen, 122 x 91cm
\$3,995





Atnwengerrp Creation - CPWG0442

Acrylic on Linen, 121 x 180cm

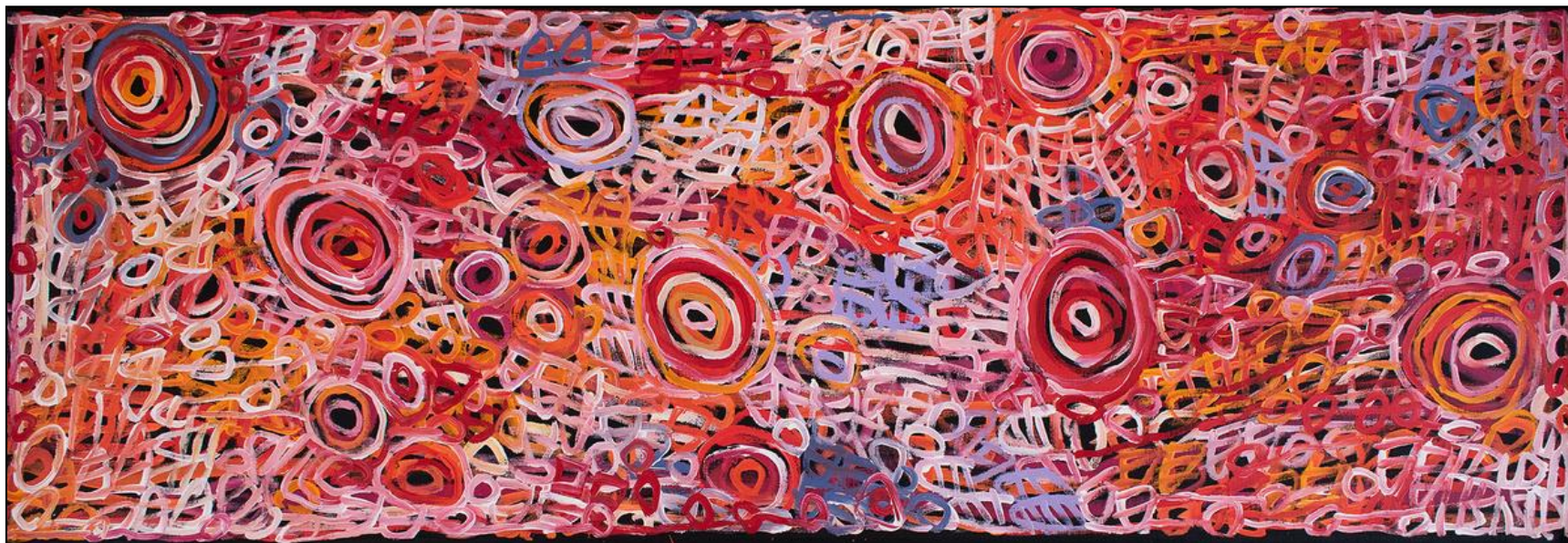
\$14,995



Women's Business - Old Time Way - CPWG0497

Acrylic on Linen, 150 x 298cm

\$29,995



Awelye - CPWG0608
Acrylic on Linen, 61 x 183cm
\$3,995



Awelye- CPWG0571
Acrylic on Linen, 91 x 152cm
\$4,750



Sand Hills - CPWG0567
Acrylic on Linen, 122 x 184cm
\$17,500



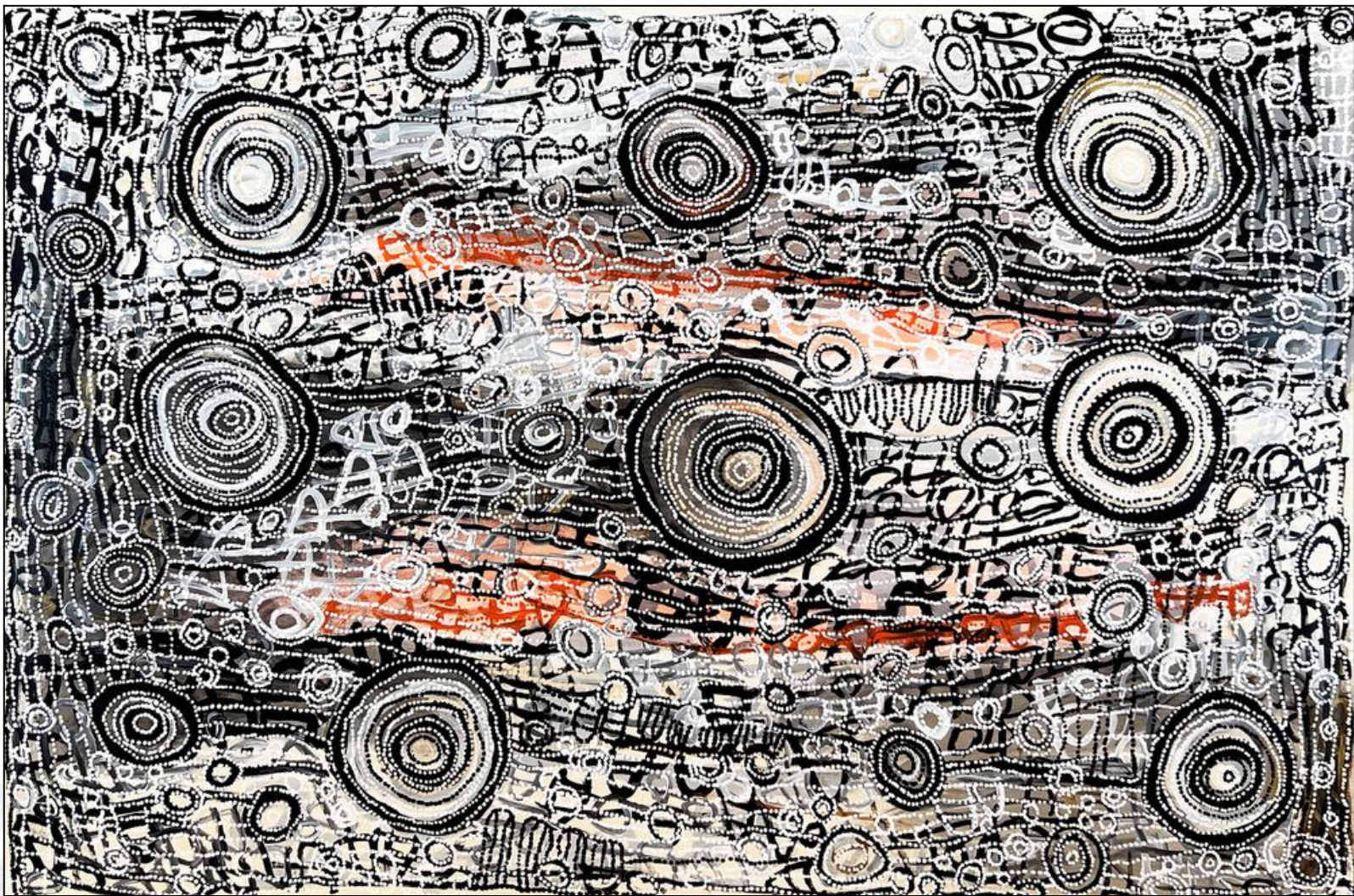
Atnwengerrp Creation - CPWG0662

Acrylic on Linen, 91 x 182cm

\$12,500



Awelye - CPWG0551
Acrylic on Linen, 61 x 182cm
\$4,995



Awelye - CPWG0404
Acrylic on Linen, 121 x 183cm
\$9,995



Sand Hills - CPWG0579
Acrylic on Linen, 90 x 210cm
\$17,500



Women's Business - Old Time Way - CPWG0566

Acrylic on Linen, 121 x 183cm

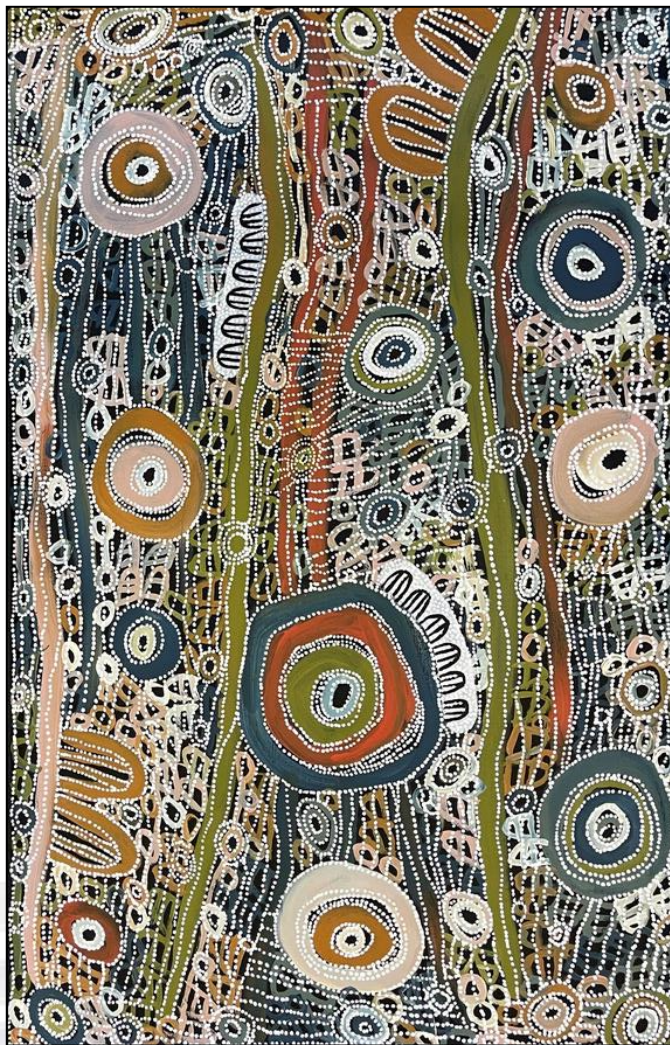
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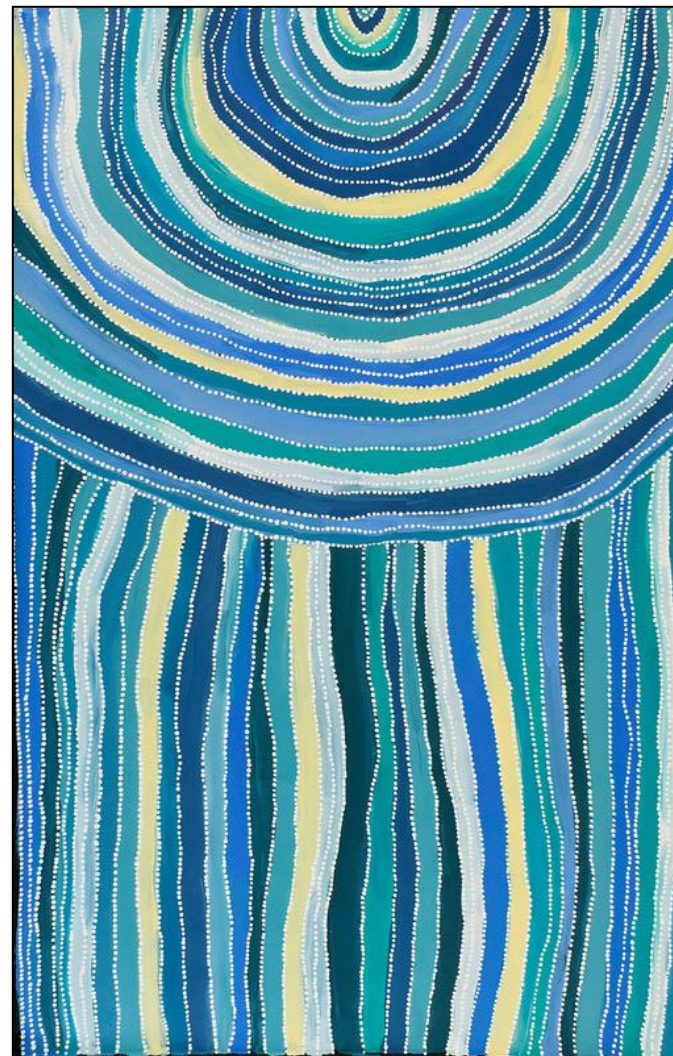
Awelye - CPWG0691
Acrylic on Linen, 121 x 182cm
\$7,995



Sand Hills- CPWG0524
Acrylic on Linen, 92 x 121cm
\$8,750



Awelye - CPWG0601
Acrylic on Linen, 120 x 75cm
\$4,250



Upper Body Paint Style - CPWG0575
Acrylic on Linen, 121 x 77cm
\$2,995



Awelye - CPWG0522
Acrylic on Linen, 61 x 92cm
\$1,495



Sand Hills - CPWG0664
Acrylic on Linen, 62 x 90cm
\$4,500



Awelye - CPWG0594
Acrylic on Linen, 122 x 82cm
\$4,995



Awelye - CPWG0702
Acrylic on Linen, 120 x 90cm
\$3,995



Awelye - CPWG0639
Acrylic on Linen, 76 x 92cm
\$2,495



Awelye - CPWG0650
Acrylic on Linen, 76 x 107cm
\$2,995



The Sun- CPWG0680
Acrylic on Linen, 61 x 61cm
\$2,995



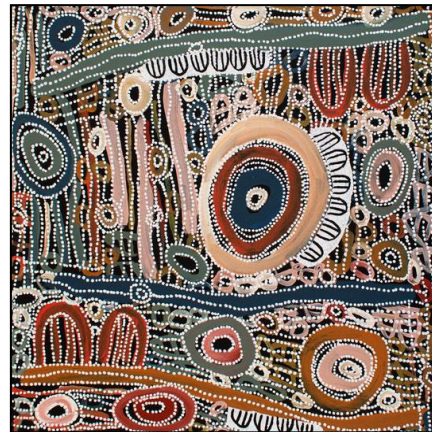
Awelye - CPWG0645
Acrylic on Linen, 60 x 60cm
\$1,250



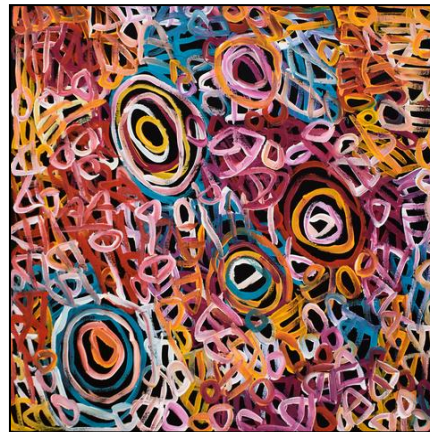
Awelye - CPWG0641
Acrylic on Linen, 61 x 61cm
\$1,650



Awelye - CPWG0604
Acrylic on Linen, 61 x 61cm \$1,250



Awelye - CPWG0596A
Acrylic on Linen, 61 x 61cm
\$1,650



Awelye - CPWG0509
Acrylic on Linen, 61 x 61cm \$1,250



Sand Hills- CPWG0500
Acrylic on Linen, 61 x 61cm
\$2,995





CHARMAINE PWERLE

DOB: 1975

Born: Alice Springs, NT

LANGUAGE GROUP: Anmatyerre

COMMUNITY: Utopia, NT

Charmaine Pwerle's art embodies a captivating fusion of talent, heritage, and innovation. She is the daughter of the esteemed Barbara Weir (deceased) and granddaughter of the legendary Minnie Pwerle (deceased). Her sister Teresa Pwerle and brother Freddy Pwerle are also well-known artists.

Growing up immersed in culture and amidst a creative environment, Charmaine was nurtured by iconic figures like her mother, grandmother, as well as Emily Kame Kngwarreye and Gloria Petyarre. This rich cultural and artistic environment cultivated her innate talent, establishing her as one of the brightest stars among the younger generation of Indigenous artists.

Charmaine's educational journey traversed two worlds, from the remote community of Utopia to the urban landscape of Adelaide and Melbourne. Despite this duality, her roots remained firmly planted in her culture, enriched by ceremonial performances and sacred narratives passed down by her grandmothers.

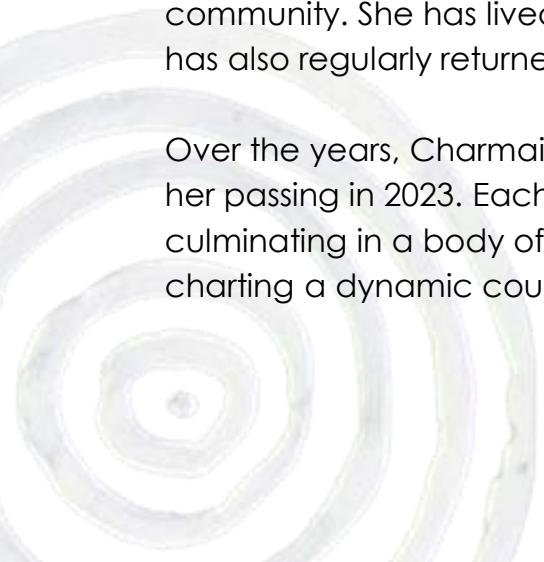
Professionally, Charmaine had the opportunity to not only have a broad grounding in her culture, but in the business of art. In 1992, Charmaine had the opportunity to work for the Urapuntja Council as a junior administration assistant, while living with her mother Barbara Weir and grandparents Minnie Pwerle and Motorcar Jim at Soakage Bore - an outstation on what used to be Utopia Station. It was a unique opportunity for her to delve deeply into her cultural heritage and be inspired artistically.

Charmaine has also worked for a leading gallery in Melbourne where she gained valuable experience in the marketing and selling of art. She has also been a Director and Member of the Aboriginal Cultural Council for the Aboriginal Art Association of Australia, which represents the interests of all Aboriginal Artists and Galleries.

Charmaine's early paintings were impressively executed and rich with culture and expression. She approached the canvas with much more than the usual degree of confidence. Her lines were bold and sure, echoing those of her grandmother Minnie Pwerle, but with the assurance of a much more practiced artist than her years or experience would suggest. The brushwork in her body designs, Awelye, had all the characteristics of this family dreaming, but Charmaine lent her own distinct creative flair, pattern and movement to the canvas.

In the years that have followed she has developed her obvious talent and has become an initiated woman in her community. She has lived in various locations across Australia with her four daughters, son and large extended family, but has also regularly returned to Utopia to be with family and take part in cultural and ceremonial events.

Over the years, Charmaine honed her craft and deepened her understanding of her Dreaming, guided by her mother until her passing in 2023. Each brushstroke has become a testament to her reverence for tradition and her innovative spirit, culminating in a body of work that serves as a bridge between generations, preserving the stories of her people while charting a dynamic course forward.



Charmaine was deeply honored to learn the final story from her mother, a narrative at its core celebrating the sacred journey of childbirth. This profound revelation has become the focal point of her recent series, titled 'Women's Business - Old Time Way'. In these works, Charmaine skillfully captures the essence of this timeless narrative, infusing her paintings with exquisite layers of complexity and movement. These artworks beautifully intertwine tradition with contemporary expression and are a breathtaking illustration of visual storytelling.

Charmaine continues in exploring and stretching her artistic limits. With each step on her cultural exploration, her craft evolves. Across the globe, galleries and collectors await eagerly as her remarkable body of work expands.

Charmaine's art has captured the attention of major institutions and many prestigious art prizes, and her exhibition history both nationally and internationally continues to grow exponentially. Notably, her participation in the immersive exhibition 'Connection' at the National Museum of Australia in 2022 and The Lume, Melbourne in 2023-24 showcased the profound impact of her work.

With each stroke, Charmaine Pwerle weaves a tapestry of cultural heritage and contemporary vision, ensuring that the legacy of Indigenous art endures and evolves in her capable hands.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2023 NATIONAL CAPITAL ART PRIZE, CANBERRA - FINALIST
2023 COLLIE ART PRIZE, COLLIE WA - FINALIST
2022 CONNECTION | SONGLINES FROM AUSTRALIA'S
FIRST PEOPLES IN A SPECTACULAR IMMERSIVE
EXPERIENCE, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA,
CANBERRA
2022 KAAF ART PRIZE, SYDNEY - FINALIST
2021 RAVENSWOOD ART PRIZE - FINALIST
2018 PADDINGTON ART PRIZE - FINALIST

COLLECTIONS

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, MELBOURNE
THE HOLMES A COURT COLLECTION, PERTH



ETHICS & AUTHENTICITY

Kate Owen Gallery is committed to upholding the rights of Indigenous artists and each painting is sold with a Certificate of Authenticity guaranteeing the provenance of the work.

The Gallery is a proud member of the Aboriginal Art Association of Australia (AAAA), the pan industry organisation for people involved in Indigenous art.

The Association binds members to a strict code of conduct, so visitors can be assured that artists are dealt with fairly, transparently and with respect.



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