

## THE IMANARA PRINT FOLIO

It was serendipity the day I met Janangoo Butcher Cherele; it led to one of the most extraordinary working relationships I have ever been lucky enough to experience.

I was staying at Fossil Downs in the S. E. Kimberleys in 2007 with Annette and John Henwood when I gave Katrina Cherele, a young woman from the Muludja Community, a ride into Fitzroy Crossing. She took me to Mangkaja Arts Centre where her gluggy (grandfather) painted on a daily basis. Mandy McGuire, then manager of Mangkaja Arts, introduced me to Butcher whose work I knew well and admired greatly. When it occurred to us that there was a Fossil Downs connection, Mandy suggested that I take him out to Jalnganjoowa, Fossil Downs, to visit his country for what was to be his last visit.

Painters Rock, the site I had selected to paint, was a three hour drive, so, along the way, we stopped for the legendary smoko at Fossil Downs. Butcher was warmly greeted and regaled with anecdotes of his physical prowess in the days when he worked there. He was a Gooniyandi/Gija man and was born at Fossil Downs, his country that he referred to as Imanara. To my surprise, Butcher said he wanted to paint alongside me; it was a transformative experience for us both, sharing the creativity of painting a triptych together, but quite differently, using pigments and ochre ruddle. He sang to his country a little as we worked and told a few stories; then indicated that I should lay our paintings out together on the ground to be photographed.

In 2008, Basil Hall, from Basil Hall Editions in Darwin, and I went to Mangkaja Arts to work on the Imanara print folio, a concept developed from the paintings Butcher and I had painted together the previous year. I had a wonderful time working with Butcher to make plates based on our canvases. He was totally focused and deft. I prepared my images the week before in my studio in New South Wales and had reduced my colours to 3 in keeping with Butcher's colours. Butcher enjoyed it so much he worked on an extra image which is also included in this folio. Basil etched and aquatinted the plates in his Darwin studio. He and his senior printer, Mats Uden, then printed my 9 plate triptych and Butcher's in the same colours we had used in our paintings. Sadly Butcher died during this time and these now are his last works.

Basil and I also made arrangements in 2008 to take the next 3 generations of Cherels out to Painters Rock to make prints of the rock paintings there, for the folio. We took along Isaac (in his 70's), Katrina, 25, and Rohanna, 12. They came over the Margaret River from Muludja arriving of course for the Fossil Downs smoko. Isaac was also born at Fossil Downs and worked there for most of his working life like his father Butcher. John Henwood greeted them warmly and decided to join us for the day painting. He regards himself as a custodian of the site and signed his plate that day with his skin name, Gloodegu, which he shares with Mervyn Street.

Imanara is a folio about special bonds to country and between the people who care for that country. It is now in memory of Janangoo Butcher Cherele.

Mandy Martin, October 2009

ARTISTS: Janangoo Butcher Cherele, Mandy Martin, Isaac Cherele, Gloodegu John Henwood, Katrina Cherele, Rohanna Cherele

PRINTERS: Basil Hall & Mats Uden, Basil Hall Editions, Darwin

MEDIUM: Etching

PAPER: Hahnemuhle 350gsm

EDITION: 10\*

FOLIO: Archival Products Australia

PUBLISHER: Mangkaja Art Resource Agency and Aboriginal Corporation 2009

\* Janangoo Butcher Cherele's individual image has been produced in an edition of 20

The Imanara Print Folio is part of *Mandy Martin and Mangkaja Artists painting Fitzroy River Valley Country 2007-2009* exhibition at Australian Galleries 50 Smith Street Collingwood VIC 3066. Opening 5.30 - 8pm Tuesday 17 December 2009. Current until 6 December 2009.



Rohanna Cherele 2009 50 x 50 cm



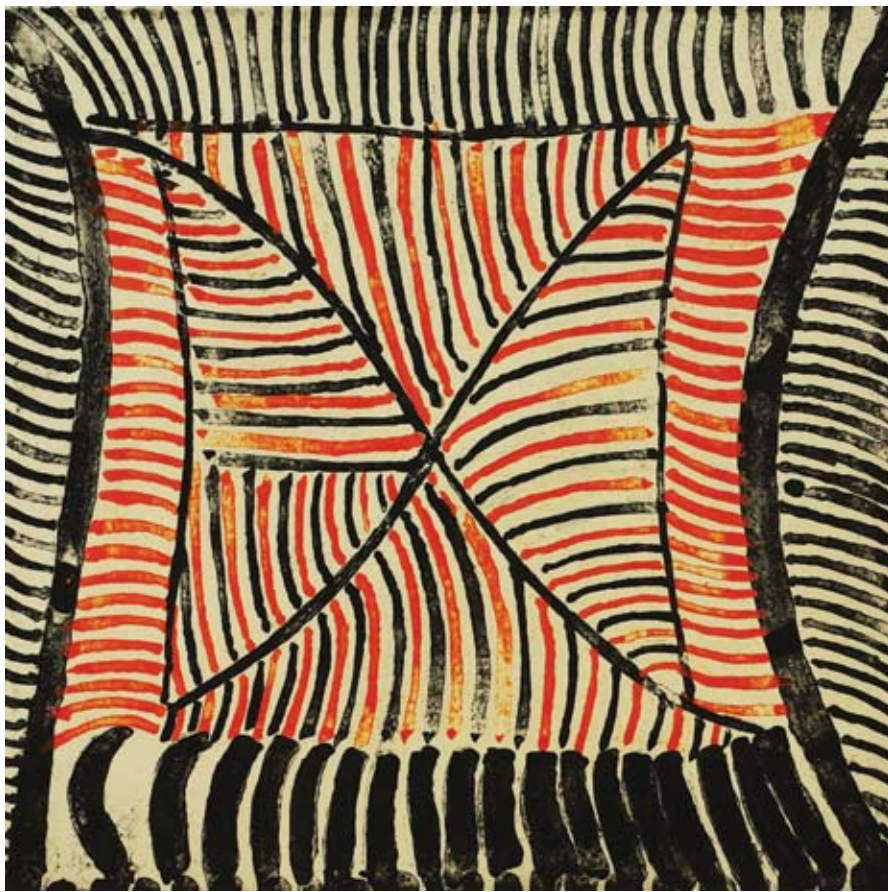
Katrina Cherele 2009 50 x 50 cm



Isaac Rockart 2009 50 x 50 cm



Gloodegu John Henwood 2009 50 x 50 cm



Janangoo Butcher Cherele 2009 50 x 50 cm

It was my first time at Painters Rock and I will always remember it. I had seen a picture of my great-grandfather, Butcher, when he was a bit younger, standing in front of the painting at Painters Rock, and thought that one day I'd be standing there too. Being there, painting these images, I felt happy. I'm glad I went out there, but I am saddened that my joogoo (great grandfather) Butcher couldn't come because he was frail and we (mum Nina, my jaja, Isaac, and I) had our picture taken exactly where Joogoo stood in that picture.

Rohanna Cherele, July 2009



Rohanna Cherele *Painters Rock* 2009 15 x 20 cm (approx)



Janangoo Butcher Cherele 2009 each panel 50 x 50 cm

I was glad that I had that experience to go out to Painters Rock with Basil Hall and Mandy Martin. My niece Rohanna my father's elder brother Isaac and I had agreed to go.

It was my first trip out to Painters Rock, and being there was amazing. Although we couldn't see some of the paintings properly because the rain water had faded them, I know it had meant a lot to my grandfather. My thoughts on that place is trying to carry on what our ancestors had left behind, trying to protect and look after what we have left of them. I am privileged to have a grandfather who had told his story through his art, and I know I have the skills to follow in his footsteps. That day I had hoped that gluggy (grandfather) would have accompanied us so that four generations stood in front of those paintings, but he had to stay, because of his health. I'm glad though that he got the chance to see the outcome of our trip to Painters Rock.

Katrina Cherele, July 2009



Mandy Martin 2009 each panel 50 x 50 cm

## AUSTRALIAN GALLERIES

Melbourne 03 9417 4303 Sydney 02 9360 5177

enquiries@australiangalleries.com.au www.australiangalleries.com.au Member of ACGA Incorporated