

MARK - MAKING ENVIRONMENT MORE INFO



Big Yam 1996

Emily Kame Kngwarreye
Aboriginal Artist
Wet media

Kngwarreye's paintings are a response to the land of her birth, Alhalkere, north of Alice Springs. She depicts the contours of the landscape, the cycles of seasons, the parched land, the flow of flooding waters and sweeping rains, the patterns of seeds and the shape of plants, and the spiritual forces which imbue the country.

Big Yam Dreaming bears a resemblance to the crazed pattern of cracked earth on the surface of the ground where the yam vine grows, and mirrors the network of arterial roots reaching deep for water in the dry desert sands. Although the presence of the yam is evident in the lines that define its roots, these lines also symbolise the ancestral connections that have been passed down through the Dreaming.

Big Yam 1996

Synthetic polymer paint on canvas, 4 panels, each 159.0 x 270.0cm, overall 245.0 x 401.0cm.

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, purchased by the National Gallery Women's Association

to mark the directorship of Dr Timothy Potts, 1998.

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Source: National Museum of Australia, www.nma.gov.au/exhibitions/utopia_the_genius_of_emily_kame_kngwarreye