



ABORIGINAL ART GALLERIES

LENA PWERLE



Lena is a community elder and senior artist from Utopia, a community located 240 kilometres north east of Alice Springs known for its quality art.

Lena was involved in the Batik project of the 1970s, when Western craft practices and traditional Indigenous imagery were combined for the first time.

In 1996 she was invited to represent Australia in Western Samoa for the Festival of Pacific Arts where she was marked as 'among the best available talent'. In this same year she also travelled to Indonesia with other women of Utopia for a workshop funded by the Northern Territory Department of Education so that they could learn more about the art of batik.

The majority of Lena's works depict soakages, or waterholes, that are spread across her land. Her later works are characterised by the use of rich, vibrant colours.

Lena is a senior boss woman at Utopia and is on a number of government boards including the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority (which protects the sacred sites within the NT) and the Urapuntja council which governs Utopia.

Lena greatly enjoys painting and encourages other members of her community to continue this tradition, and in doing so promote their culture.