

Touring Exhibition

PADDY BEDFORD

EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

I always paint my mother's country and my father's country. I don't paint other people's country.
The emu is one of my dreamings.¹



Brumby Springs 2005, ochres and pigment with acrylic binder on Belgian linen, © Paddy Bedford Trust

The relationship of Aboriginal people to the land is integral to the understanding of the work of Paddy Bedford. His paintings combine important ancestral Dreamings (which can be defined as the relationship between physical and the spiritual world) such as emu, turkey and cockatoo with contemporary life that incorporate the rivers and traditionally owned land he inhabits along with the roads, stock camp life, stock yards and country visited while mustering horses.

As a senior law man Bedford was involved in painting as part of ceremony all his life. He began to translate these stories and motifs onto canvas in 1997 when Freddy Timms set up the Jirrawun Aboriginal Art group at Rugun (Crocodile Hole) in the East Kimberley region, which is a remote area in the far north of Western Australia. His work is recognised as part of the 'Turkey Creek' style made famous by Rover Thomas and Queenie McKenzie with its expanses of plain ochre with abstracted, discreet motifs and sparse lines marked by white dots. These images depict the bones of the landscape in which he has spent a life time.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Contents:

83 canvas paintings and gouaches

Approximate running metres:

215 running metres

Exhibition materials:

The exhibition is supplemented by a major publication on the artist that serves as his catalogue raisonné.

3 online education resource kits for students and teachers

Didactic material

ITINERARY

Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth

12 May – 22 July 2007

Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo

11 August – 16 September 2007

University Art Museum, Brisbane

16 November 2007 – 1 March 2008

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¹ Paddy Bedford, quoted in Tony Oliver, Marcia Langton & Frances Kofod (eds), *Blood on the Spinifex* exhibition catalogue, The Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne, 2002.