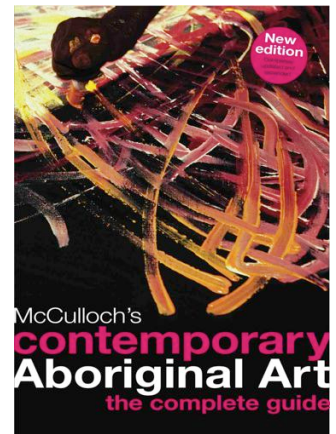




MEDIA RELEASE

## A new ABORIGINAL ART GUIDE for Australia

### McCulloch's CONTEMPORARY ABORIGINAL ART: the complete guide



The new edition of the best-selling *McCulloch's Contemporary Aboriginal Art: the complete guide* provides up to the minute information on dozens of art producing centres and areas throughout the central and western deserts, the Kimberley and west, the PY and NPY lands, the Top End and Arnhem Land, Qld and TSI, southern states and capital cities and charts the rise of this extraordinary art movement over the last 40 years.

First published in 1999, this new 3rd edition of this best-selling book has been completely revised and updated with more than double the information of previous editions and features:

- extensive profiles on more than 80 art centres and nine main regions
- more than 400 illustrations of artwork, landscape and artists
- a comprehensive introduction detailing the history of contemporary Aboriginal art
- an exploration of new media and styles of city based artists
- listings of more than 2000 artists
- maps, a buyer's guide and directory of arts centres

The vast growth of Aboriginal art is reflected in this new edition itself which has increased from three main regions and 22 communities in its 2001 edition, to nine regions and more than 80 places and art communities in 2008.

"The production of Aboriginal art has grown dramatically and so too have the issues surrounding it, which are more contentious than ever before," said co-author **Susan McCulloch**, who has been documenting Aboriginal art since the 1980s. "It can be quite bewildering for art buyers or appreciators to sift through the maze of information and counter-information to sort out what is the 'real' in Aboriginal art," said McCulloch. "The guide demystifies this, and presents clear, concise information about the history of this art, the issues surrounding it, its regional and stylistic differences, and an analysis of how this art is sourced, bought and sold."

A comprehensive introduction relates the contemporary history of Aboriginal art and *From the Bush to the City* (pp 30-34) provides an insightful, knowledgeable analysis of how this art is sourced, bought and sold.

McCulloch & McCulloch Australian Art Books Pty Ltd

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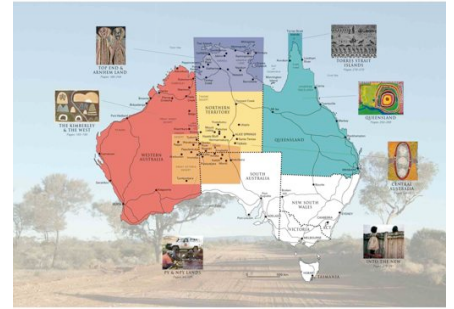
McCulloch's Encyclopedia of Australian Art [www.ausart.com.au](http://www.ausart.com.au)



## “A unique mix of art and guide book”

Margo Neale, National Museum of Australia

**Susan McCulloch** and her co-author and daughter **Emily McCulloch Childs** (authors also of the seminal reference on Australian art, *McCulloch's Encyclopedia of Australian Art*) have travelled widely for more than 20 years throughout the central and western deserts, the Top End, Kimberley, Arnhem Land and throughout Australia and have known, interviewed and written of many of Australia's great Aboriginal artists as well as those of newer generations.



“We have been to the regions and arts centres at the hub of a number of the controversies most reported on of late and document it all from hard won and extensive first-hand knowledge,” says McCulloch. “We see the current issues as a reflection of the extent to which this art form has grown and the complexities that have increased with this growth.”

To research this edition Susan and Emily's trips included those to areas visited before and new trips to the vast central and western regions of the NPY and PY lands of South Australia, Western Australia and the NT throughout which art has especially mushroomed in recent years.

“Art from this region has been one of the most striking new developments seen in this edition,” says McCulloch. “So too the revival of art in some older-established art producing communities, notably Arnhem Land's Milingimbi and Queensland's Mornington Island. Queensland art is, in general steaming ahead. And new directions are seen in the biggest art communities such as a newer generation of Papunya artists now based at Kintore; those at Yuendumu, Balgo, Maningrida, Yirrkala, Warmun and many more.”

Acclaimed for its accessible writing style, comprehensive information and number of stunning illustrations of art, artists and landscape, this book is a fascinating journey to some of Australia's most remote and beautiful art-producing areas, as well as relating developments in new media and city-based artists.

“Aboriginal art is unquestionably the largest growth area in Australian art and outstrips the sales of non- indigenous art many times over,” says McCulloch. “With new arts centres, artists, and galleries becoming established on a weekly basis and sales booming, its growth shows no signs of abating.”

### **McCulloch's Contemporary Aboriginal Art: the complete guide**

Publisher: McCulloch & McCulloch Australian Art Books

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## The authors

### Susan McCulloch & Emily McCulloch Childs

**Susan McCulloch** is one of Australia's best known art writers who has written widely on visual and other arts for Australian and international press since 1980. She has managed her own book publishing company since 1978 and was *The Australian* newspaper's visual arts writer 1994-2003 and its national art critic 2003-2004. She is the co-author with her late father Alan McCulloch and daughter Emily McCulloch Childs of the leading art reference book *McCulloch's Encyclopedia of Australian Art*.



Co-director of the Melbourne based publishing company McCulloch & McCulloch Australian Art books she is also a frequent judge of art prizes, commentator on art and contributor to leading art journals.

Her interest in Aboriginal art stems from the 1960s when she helped Alan McCulloch prepare an exhibition of bark paintings from Museum Victoria which he curated for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, US. In 1964 she also took her first trip to the outback and has been a regular traveller since to Australia's most remote art producing communities since.

Through visiting their lands often and spending time with many of the most famous artists such as Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri, Rover Thomas, Turkey Tolson Tjupurrula, Queenie McKenzie, Emily Kame Kngwarreye, Minnie Pwerle and a host of others, in her role as an art writer, since the 1980s, she has written hundreds of features, reviews and obituaries on Australia's most famous Aboriginal artists as well charting the rise of this movement itself and that of newer generations of artists, arts centres, galleries, art awards and the sector as a whole. As well she brought to light for the first time, many issues surrounding Aboriginal art, such as those relating to authenticity, fakes, frauds and industry malpractice.

**Emily McCulloch Childs** is Susan McCulloch's daughter with a BA (Hons) in English from La Trobe University, 1998. Her interest in Aboriginal art was sparked as a child and furthered by working in Aboriginal art galleries in Melbourne. She has worked in London in newspapers and publishing companies and is co-director of McCulloch & McCulloch Australian Art Books. She is co-author of *McCulloch's Encyclopedia of Australian Art* and her other books include *New Beginnings: Classic Paintings from the Corrigan Collection of 21st century Aboriginal art*. (Nov. 2008)

An equally passionate and knowledgeable writer on Aboriginal art, Emily brings the perspective of a younger generation to write on new media and other contemporary developments, those in towns such as Alice Springs and Darwin as well as many regions from an historic base.

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