

# Freda Price Pityara

*Other Names: Petyarre*

Born: 1984  
region: Central Desert  
Community: Utopia  
Language: Anmatyerre

Medium: Acrylic on canvas/linen.  
Subjects: Yam Seed, Wildflower, Bush Potato,  
Emu, My Country.



Freda Price Petyarre is a young woman who is making her mark on the art world. Born in 1984 in Utopia, NT, (350km northeast of Alice Springs) she comes from one of the most famous painting families in Australia.

Her mother is prominent senior Utopian artist Anna Price Petyarre. She is related by marriage to Emily Kame Kngwarreye (her grandfather was Michael Kngwarreye) and her grandmother is the late Gloria (Glory) Ngale. Gloria was known for her eye for colour, a legacy of her Batik work, which she passed down to her daughters and granddaughters. Freda's artwork depicts from a topographical view in fine detail associated with her family homelands of Utopia in Central Australia focusing often on Yam seeds.

Encouraged by her mother and other family members, Freda is now producing excellent and consistent works. Her style is similar to that of her mother Anna with intricate dot work telling the story of her country and significant landmarks for ceremonies. The illustration is important visually and spiritually of country – sand hills, riverbeds. This is often done in groups so that knowledge is passed down from older to younger women. Ceremonial sites are where the women gather for girls' initiation and other cultural Law matters.



The women sit around the waterholes, often depicted in the artwork, with the waterholes being full in the dry desert land. Due to this, there was plenty of bush tucker around for the women to eat during the sometimes very long period of time they camped out for Women's Business. Freda's works, like her mother are intricately detailed with a strong use of monochrome colours. The leaves, flowers, bark or seeds of certain plants are harvested in season or as needed.

For untold generations, the Anmatyerre people have been harvesting the seeds from this plant, to be ground down into a fine powder to make damper. It is a highly nutritious and hardy food source in the desert. The sacred plant is celebrated in women's ceremonies, through song, dance and body painting.



**Aboriginal Fine Arts Gallery**

1st Floor Cnr Mitchell & Knuckey Streets. Darwin, NT, Australia 0800

PO Box 3428 Darwin NT Australia 0801

Ph. +61 8 8981 1315 Internet: <http://www.aaia.com.au>

Email: [art@aaia.com.au](mailto:art@aaia.com.au)