



GAVIN WANGANEEN

# *Shooting Star*

KILIPUNKANAI

# Shooting Star

## An exhibition showcasing Gavin Wanganeen's Shooting Star (Kilipi Pulkanai) series

25 May - 1 June

Moments of profound significance often happen when we least expect it.

Early evening, during a summertime camping holiday to Port Victoria in 2012, Gavin and his wife Pippa saw what they thought was a firecracker lighting up the night sky.

It turned out to be that rarest of occurrences, a shooting star that carries tremendous importance in Dreaming stories told by Gavin's Kokatha people.

For Gavin, it was an unforgettable moment that has stayed with him and inspired his debut exhibition.

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# Foreward

By Kevin Sheedy

As a trailblazer for Aboriginal footballers in the professional game, Gavin Wanganeen was a defining player of his era.

He was the first indigenous player to win a Brownlow Medal, the first indigenous player to reach the 300 game milestone and just the sixth to be honoured in the AFL Hall of Fame. He truly is a shooting star who was always destined for great things.

Both on and off the field, he represented his people with great pride and humility, and his story has helped create a pathway for many indigenous people around Australia.

In my 50 years in the game, Gavin Wanganeen is one of those players I think we should all consider ourselves lucky to have seen. He had flair, grace

and freakish skills as well as great courage and competitive instinct.

It comes as little surprise that Gavin is now telling his story and expressing his cultural identity through painting.

I would think the work Gavin is now doing with his art is providing another generation of aboriginal people with inspiration to achieve and do great things with their life.

Well done Gavin on this wonderful exhibition.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Sheedy". The signature is stylized, with a large, circular flourish at the end of the name.

Kevin Sheedy



# Biography

Gavin Wanganeen, descendent of the Kokatha people of the Western desert of South Australia is a contemporary Indigenous artist.

He is also known as an AFL legend and Brownlow Medalist whose glittering career has spanned some 300 senior games at Essendon and Port Adelaide, countless awards and a reputation as one of the best to ever play the game.

Yet it is as an emerging artist that Gavin is achieving new found fame and prominence.

Gavin Wanganeen is a Coleman/Davey, proud Kokatha person. Kokatha people have a strong connection to country, culture and hold the Tjukupa (Lore) and caring for country. The Kokatha lands are in the Central/South Western desert in South Australia.

Gavin was born at Mt. Gambier in South Australia's South East in 1973.

Growing up, Gavin spent time on the State's West Coast where his maternal great grandfather, Dick Davey was a well respected leader of both the people of Kooniba Mission, and the general community.

While his precocious sporting ability emerged early, Gavin also shared a love of colour and storytelling through art.

Yet it wasn't until his twenties, when a discussion with his Aboriginal teammates sparked a competition to produce the best piece of art from their respective regions, that Gavin made what would be a life changing decision to start painting.

Gavin began to explore and explain his ancestral links on canvas, recreating memories and capturing the beauty of our immense outback.

Once, when Gavin was camping with his wife, Pippa, on Wardang island, he experienced a significant moment which he needed to express on canvas. He felt his Kokatha ancestors and wanted to express this connection through art in beginning his cultural journey.

It is this pivotal moment that has provided the inspiration for Gavin's first exhibition, Shooting Star.

As you will see, under the careful tutelage and mentoring of Aboriginal relatives and friends, Gavin's astonishing talent has blossomed and

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now, in 2016, Gavin's growing body of work is attracting national attention and acclaim.

Gavin's most recent work includes:

Solo exhibition, Shooting Star, opening 25 May 2016 at The Koori Heritage Trust, Federation Square, Melbourne.

Essendon Football Club Guernsey design to be worn by players at the AFL Dreamtime at the 'G Sir Doug Nicholls Round.

Group exhibition - 2015 Our Mob exhibition as part of the Tarnanthi Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art. Included artist talk.

"My work has a fresh, modern approach while keeping strong links to my cultural past. I am keen to take my work to a wider audience," said Gavin.

Commissioned pieces include Toop & Toop offices, Norwood Parade and Topham Mall entrance foyer, City of Adelaide.

Gavin Wanganeen is an important and inspiring role model within the Indigenous community due to

his successful sporting career and transition to a working artist.

"Football has given me some wonderful opportunities in my life, a strong sense of achievement and an understanding that role models can make a difference to people's lives. I believe Indigenous kids need a range of role models - some in sport but also teachers, business leaders, nurses, researchers and artists."

From the ferocity of football to the serenity of art, Gavin Wanganeen has revealed himself to be a man of many talents and in every sense, an outstanding Australian.



# Biography



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# Family History



Pictured are Gavin's Great Grandfather Dick Davey holding Gavin's Grandfather, Alwyn.

Also pictured is seated Great Grandmother, Lily Bilney holding baby and child standing, Uncle Gordon Davey.

Dick Davey was a well respected elder in the community and had a strong influence on Gavin's life, sharing stories and memories of the family history.

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Pictured is Gavin's grandfather's brother, Uncle Gordon Davey holding Gavin's hand as a 3 year old boy in Port Lincoln, South Australia.

They are standing in front of the family home that Gavin's great grandfather and his sons built with their bare hands. Gavin has fond memories of time spent at this property with his family. The picture was taken in 1976.

# 2016 Dreamtime Guernsey

The Essendon Football Club Indigenous Guernsey to be worn in the 2016 'Dreamtime at the 'G' clash against Richmond has this year been designed by Essendon legend and proud Kokatha Mula man, Gavin Wanganeen. The design represents the important connection between the Bombers and Indigenous communities.

The truly unique and symbolic design depicts all 23 Indigenous players to have ever 'donned the sash' at Essendon. The players are represented as U-shapes making their way towards the Essendon Football Club with circles in the middle of the sash representing the enduring resting place and home ground of the Club.

The annual 'Dreamtime at the 'G' clash was introduced in 2005 to celebrate the role Australian football has played in building bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia. The game is preceded with an on ground music and cultural entertainment show and concluded with the Yiooken Award presented to the best player on the ground.

The Essendon Dreamtime Guernsey was launched earlier this year at the MCG by Wanganeen, with Club legend Michael Long, and current Essendon Indigenous players Courtney Dempsey, Shaun Edwards, Jake Long, Yestin Eades, Anthony McDonald-Tipungwuti and Mathew Stokes.

Gavin Wanganeen played 300 AFL games. He is a two time premierships player, five time All Australian, 1993 Brownlow Medallist and is a member of Essendon's Team of the Century.

The Guernsey is available for purchase exclusively from the Bombers Shop. For more information call (03) 8340 2181.

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# *Shooting Star*



REF. SA2016#4

**BASE COLOUR**  
COPPER/ TURQUOISE

**COMPLETION**  
APRIL 2016

**MATERIALS**  
BELGIAN LINEN,  
ACRYLIC PAINT

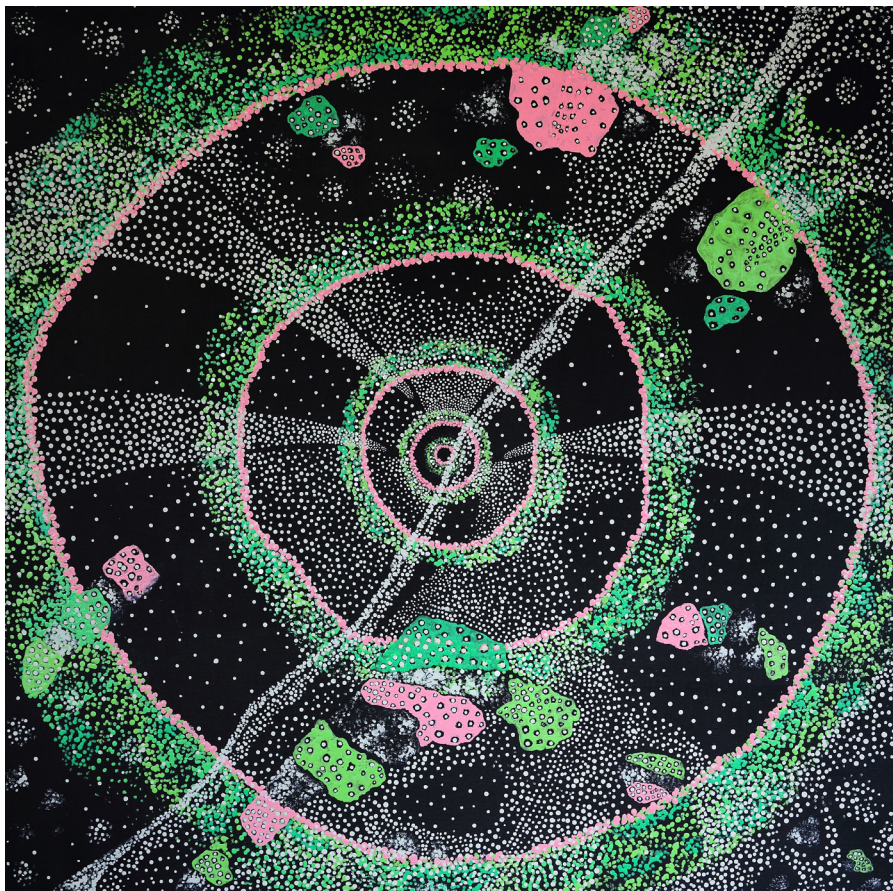
**SIZE**  
1M X 1M

**\$4,950.00** (INC GST)

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# Shooting Star



REF. SA2016#5

**BASE COLOUR**  
GREEN/PINK

**COMPLETION**  
APRIL 2016

**MATERIALS**  
BELGIAN LINEN,  
ACRYLIC PAINT

**SIZE**  
1M X 1M

**\$4,950.00** (INC GST)

# *Shooting Star*



REF. SA2016#6

**BASE COLOUR**  
BLUSH/BURGUNDY

**COMPLETION**  
APRIL 2016

**MATERIALS**  
BELGIAN LINEN,  
ACRYLIC PAINT

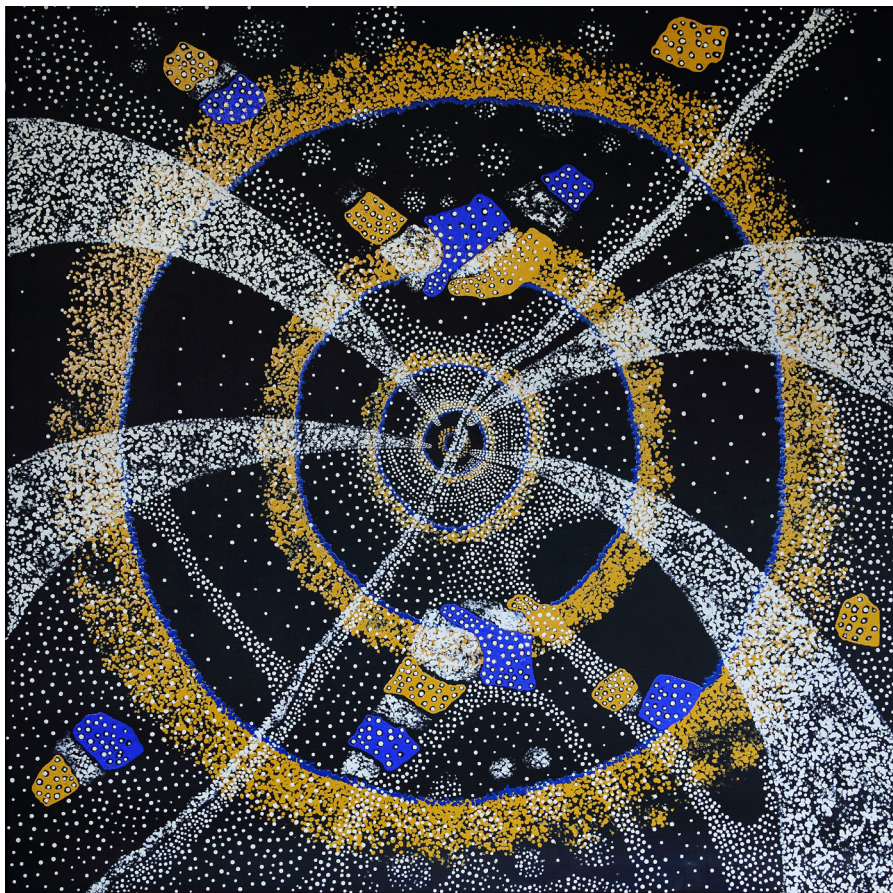
**SIZE**  
1M X 1M

**\$4,950.00** (INC GST)

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# *Shooting Star*



REF. SA2016#7

**BASE COLOUR**  
MUSTARD/BLUE

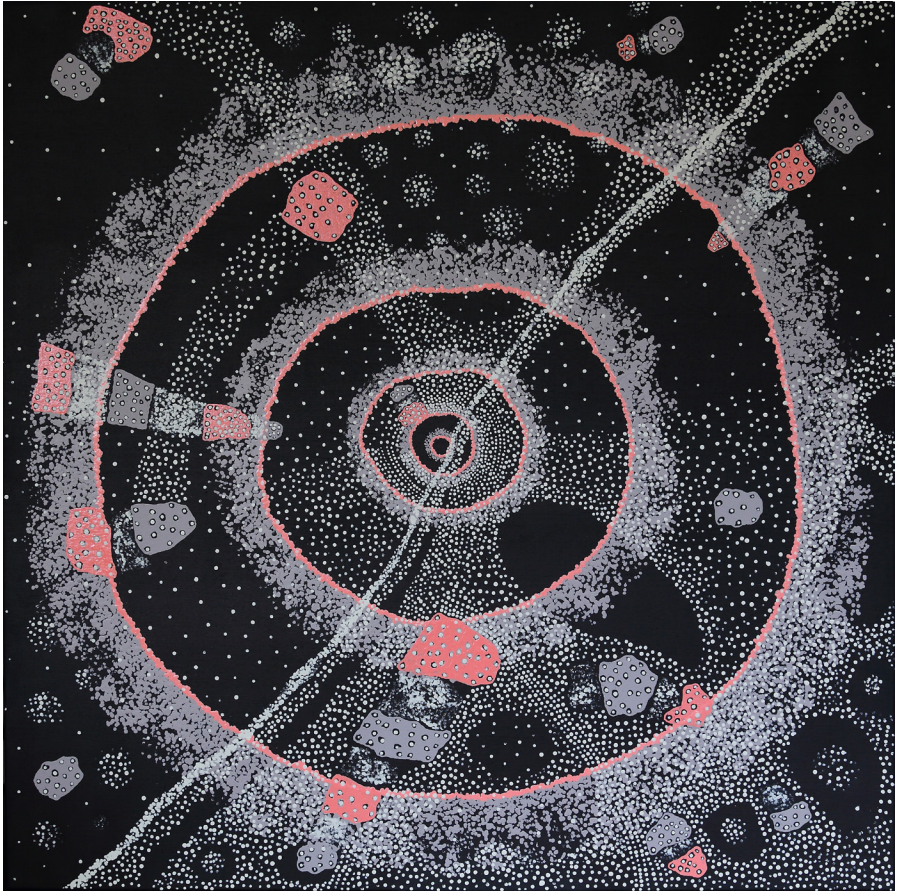
**COMPLETION**  
APRIL 2016

**MATERIALS**  
BELGIAN LINEN,  
ACRYLIC PAINT

**SIZE**  
1M X 1M

**\$4,950.00** (INC GST)

# *Shooting Star*



REF. SA2016#8

**BASE COLOUR**  
GREY/CORAL

**COMPLETION**  
APRIL 2016

**MATERIALS**  
BELGIAN LINEN,  
ACRYLIC PAINT

**SIZE**  
1M X 1M

**\$4,950.00** (INC GST)

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# *Shooting Star*



REF. SA2016#9

**BASE COLOUR**  
ORANGE/YELLOW

**COMPLETION**  
APRIL 2016

**MATERIALS**  
BELGIAN LINEN,  
ACRYLIC PAINT

**SIZE**  
1M X 1M

**\$4,950.00** (INC GST)

# *Shooting Star*



REF. SA2016#13

**BASE COLOUR**  
SKY BLUE/CORAL

**COMPLETION**  
APRIL 2016

**MATERIALS**  
BELGIAN LINEN,  
ACRYLIC PAINT

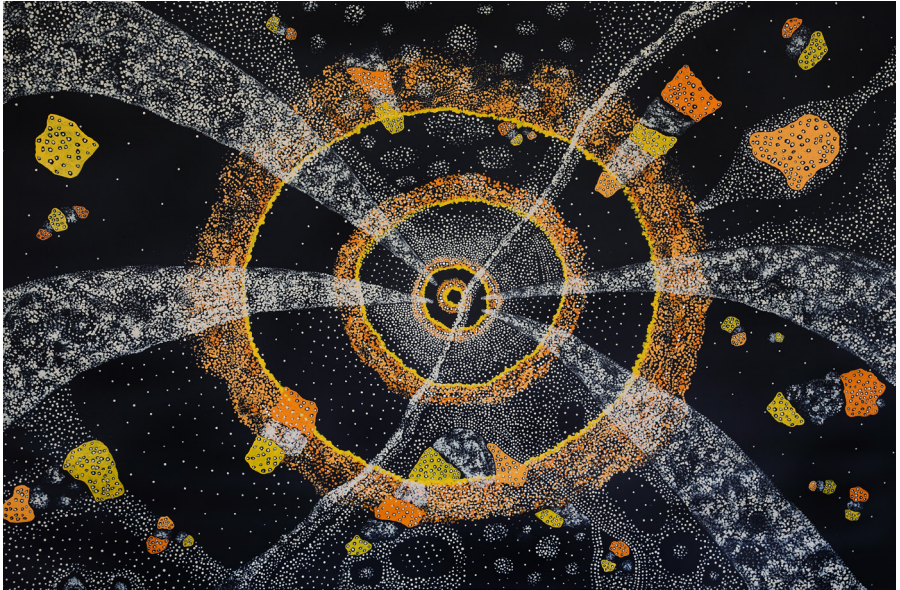
**SIZE**  
1.7M X 1.35M

**\$7,700.00** (INC GST)

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REF. SA2016#12

**BASE COLOUR**  
ORANGE

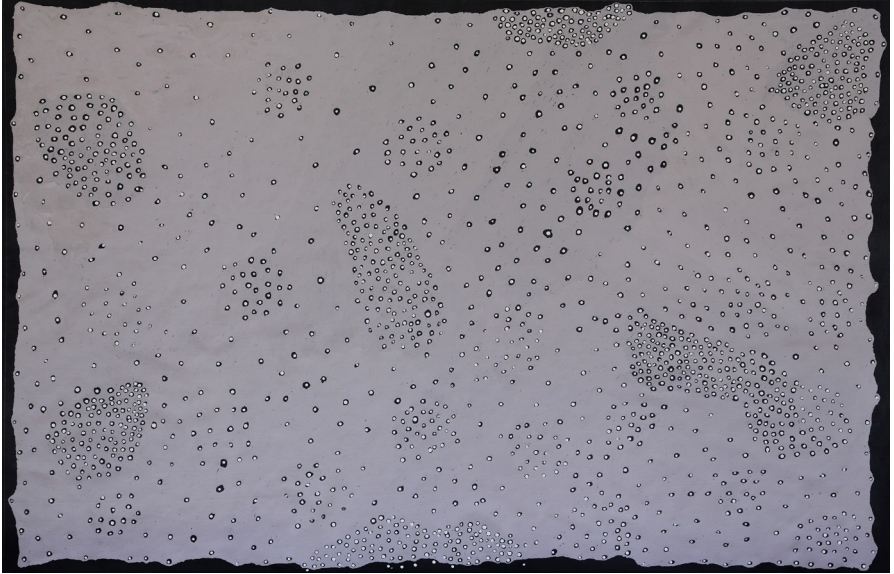
**COMPLETION**  
APRIL 2016

**MATERIALS**  
BELGIAN LINEN,  
ACRYLIC PAINT

**SIZE**  
1.2M X 1.8M

**\$7,700.00** (INC GST)

# *Star Dreaming*



REF. SA2016#14

**BASE COLOUR**  
GREY

**COMPLETION**  
APRIL 2016

**MATERIALS**  
BELGIAN LINEN,  
ACRYLIC PAINT

**SIZE**  
1.35M X 0.9M

**\$5,500.00** (INC GST)

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# *Star Dreaming*



REF. SA2016#15

**BASE COLOUR**  
BLUSH

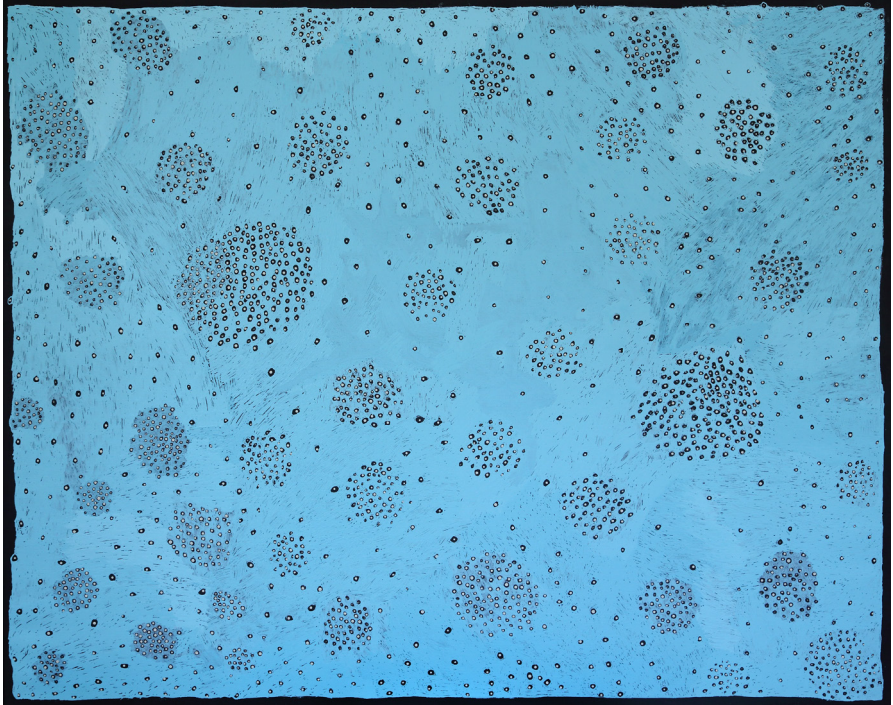
**COMPLETION**  
APRIL 2016

**MATERIALS**  
BELGIAN LINEN,  
ACRYLIC PAINT

**SIZE**  
1.4M X 0.9M

**\$5,500.00** (INC GST)

# *Star Dreaming*



REF. SA2016#10

**BASE COLOUR**  
SKY BLUE

**COMPLETION**  
APRIL 2016

**MATERIALS**  
BELGIAN LINEN,  
ACRYLIC PAINT

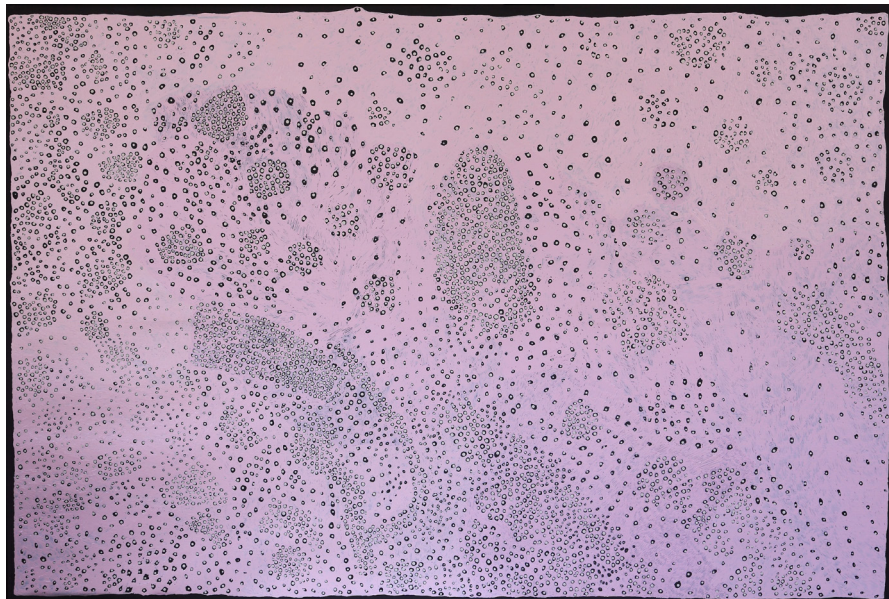
**SIZE**  
1.7 M X 1.35 M

**\$8,800.00** (INC GST)

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# *Star Dreaming*



REF. SA2016#11

**BASE COLOUR**  
BLUSH

**COMPLETION**  
APRIL 2016

**MATERIALS**  
BELGIAN LINEN,  
ACRYLIC PAINT

**SIZE**  
1.2M X 1.8M

**\$8,800.00** (INC GST)

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South Australia



For any enquiries or further information please call **03 8340 2163**