

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - UPDATED RELEASE
JUNE 4, 2015**

PORTLAND INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART PARTICIPATES IN MAJOR NATIONAL TOUR OF ABORIGINAL CONTEMPORARY ART

Works of acclaimed Aboriginal painters will be presented at Nevada Museum of Art, **Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (PICA)**, Pérez Art Museum in Miami, and Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History, Detroit. This exhibition offers the very first opportunity for U.S. audiences to view the works of nine contemporary Aboriginal Australian artists in depth. Tour launched February 2015.

EXHIBITION: *No Boundaries: Aboriginal Australian Contemporary Abstract Painting*

EXHIBITION RUN: June 20 - August 16, 2015

OPENING RECEPTION: June 20, 2015, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

LOCATION: Mason Erhman Building Annex, 467 NW Davis Portland, OR 97209

GALLERY HOURS: Thurs. - Fri. 12:00 - 6:30 PM + Sat. - Sun. 12:00 - 4:00 PM

ONLINE: www.pica.org/event/no-boundaries

PRESS IMAGES: www.pica.org/about/press (picapress2015)

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PICA

EXHIBITING ARTISTS: Warlpirrnga Tjapaltjarri (born circa 1958) **Paddy Bedford** (c.1922–2007), **Janangoo Butcher Cherel** (c.1918–2009), **Tommy Mitchell** (c.1943-2013), **Ngarra** (c.1920-2008), **Prince of Wales** (Midpul)(c.1938-2002), **Billy Joongoora Thomas** (c.1920-2012), **Boxer Milner Tjampitjin** (c.1935-2009), and **Tjumbo Tjapanangka** (c.1929-2007).

EXHIBITION TOUR SCHEDULE: PICA, Portland, Oregon, June 20 - August 16, 2015

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, Nevada, February 14 - April 26, 2015

Pérez Art Museum Miami, September 17, 2015 - January 3, 2016

Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History, Detroit, Michigan, January 17 - May 15, 2016

A major exhibition of nine contemporary Aboriginal Australian artists will travel to museums and art centers around the country in 2015–16. The exhibition, *No Boundaries*, presents the work of nine trailblazing artists who were inspired by their ancient cultural traditions to forge one of the most dynamic painting movements of recent times. The exhibition will be comprised of more than 75 paintings, created between 1992 and 2012.

The turn of the 21st century was a moment of extraordinary experimentation and innovation in Australian Aboriginal contemporary art. Across the country, artists transformed their traditional iconographies into more abstract styles of mark making. The artists featured in *No Boundaries* were at the forefront of this movement. Each artist was a respected senior Lawman, knowledgeable in every aspect of Aboriginal ceremonial traditions. As skilled artists, they turned this knowledge into dynamic contemporary art, which can stand up next to works by artists such as Gerhard Richter, Julie Mehretu, Sean Scully, and Mark Grotjahn.

Created at the frontier where Indigenous and Western cultures meet, their paintings speak across cultures, a reminder that contemporary art comes from all corners of the globe. This exhibition offers the very first opportunity for U.S. audiences to view these nine artists' works in depth, featuring a stunning selection from each period in their careers. Although rarely seen in the U.S., these artists stand at the vanguard of global contemporary art practice.

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“As we look across the vast expanse that is contemporary abstract painting, we find many points of commonality between Western and Aboriginal practices,” said Jens Hoffmann, Deputy Director of the Jewish Museum in New York, who contributed an essay to the *No Boundaries* exhibition catalogue. *“Like the Aboriginal artists in this exhibition, these contemporary painters may speak in the language of abstraction, but they are still saying something. Look behind the abstract imagery and you will find parallel stories of history, people, and place.”*

The works are drawn from the collection of Debra and Dennis Scholl, Miami-based collectors and philanthropists. After four decades of collecting cutting-edge contemporary art, Debra and Dennis Scholl changed their focus to Aboriginal contemporary art after encountering the extraordinary wealth of talent emerging from Northern Australia during several trips to that country. *“The artists all have a common thread,”* said Dennis Scholl, *“each had reached senior status in their communities and had become abstract painters who transcended the expectations of both the community and the art world.”*

“We chose works by those who, to paraphrase the artist Paddy Bedford, after having painted all of their mother’s countries and all of their father’s countries, finally chose to simply paint,” continued Scholl. *“These painters have gone far beyond the boundaries of their community, their ‘country,’ and the very idea of their work as merely ethnographic. They are simply painters—some of the finest abstract painters this planet has ever seen.”*

No Boundaries: Aboriginal Contemporary Abstract Painting originated at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, Nevada and was organized by William Fox, Director, Center for Art and Environment, and scholar Henry Skerritt. The exhibition is drawn from the collection of Debra and Dennis Scholl.

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Image: Paddy Bedford *Merrmerrji*, 2004. Natural earth pigments and synthetic binder on composition board, 31. x 3938 in. (80 x 100 cm). Courtesy of Debra and Dennis Scholl.

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Image: Tjampo Tjapanangka, *Wati Kutjarra at the Water Site of Mamara*, 2000 (detail).

No Boundaries is sponsored by Sarah Miller-Meigs and Andrew Meigs, the Robert Lehman Foundation, and Beam Development. PICA's visual art programs are supported by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Calligram Foundation/Allie Furlotti, PICA's Visual Art Circle, and are supported, in part, by a grant from the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Regional Arts & Culture Council.

ABOUT PORTLAND INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART (PICA)

Portland Institute for Contemporary Art acknowledges and advances new developments in contemporary art, fostering the explorations of artists and audiences. Since 1995, PICA has championed the practice of contemporary artists from around the world, driving vital conversations about the art and issues of today. PICA presents artists from visual and performance backgrounds and embraces those individuals who exist at the borders of genres and ideas. Through artist residencies and exhibitions, lectures and workshops, and the annual Time-Based Art Festival, PICA constructs a broad platform for contemporary art.

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