

# Creative communicators, fostering wider understanding of cultural landscapes in Mparntwe (Alice Springs)

## Abstract

Sacred Sites are an integral part of cultural continuance for Aboriginal custodians in Mparntwe (Alice Springs), the apmerekere artweye (traditional custodians) of Mparntwe have an unbroken custody of their traditional lands and it is their sacred duty to care for and protect their Sacred Sites. With unrelenting pressure on and damage to sites, custodians have joined forces with the arts community to increase understanding and awareness of their role in protecting their sites. Social issue storytelling, cultural interpretation and a longitudinal respectful collaboration is the basis for this unique project. Led by senior custodian Doris Stuart Kngwarreye, the Alice to Mparntwe sacred sites bus tours for creative communicators visit sacred sites within the Alice Springs town boundaries, tour participants are invited to develop creative responses to the in-person storytelling. Research Methods include: • Descriptive Phenomenology (lived experience, hermeneutic interpretation through written and creative form), • Participatory Action Research (directed by the knowledge of collaborators and community experts-by-experience), and • Multi-arts praxis (creation from a diverse range of available things/ layering visual elements to create visual storytelling) This transformative creative practice is essential to the contemporary expression of the complexity of living cultural landscapes. The aim is to connect a deeper understanding of creative practice and how creative practice can raise awareness, foster dialogue, and facilitate new understanding of cultural landscapes. The research will contribute to creative practice methodology through engaging social issue storytelling as a means of gleaning and expressing the significance of cultural landscapes in Australian contexts.