

# Artists feel the pinch as super jitters bite

MICHAELA BOLAND  
NATIONAL ARTS WRITER

THE faltering market for indigenous art, under siege from changes to superannuation rules, is threatening the livelihoods of artists such as Josie Kunoth Petyarre and Dinni Kunoth Kemarre just as they looked poised to reap the rewards of years of work.

Petyarre and her husband, Kemarre, this month won awards in the Waterhouse Natural History Prize at the South Australian Museum. Petyarre won the \$10,000 first prize for paintings with one of her colourful *Sugarbag* canvases, while Kemarre collected the first prize for sculpture with a bird carving.

Canvases and carvings by the couple from Utopia, 300km west of Alice Springs, will be on show at the Melbourne Art Fair next week. But with the art sector

**'There was a lot of Papunya Tula work that didn't do well despite reasonable prices'**

DIANE MOSSENSON  
GALLERY OWNER

fearful of a business downturn, the gains of recent years could be short-lived.

At Sotheby's bumper indigenous art auction this week only 42 per cent of works sold, despite reasonable price estimates and many pieces coming with strong provenance.

The Save Super Art campaign has so far failed to get an assurance from the Labor government that, should it be re-elected, it will exempt art from changes to self-managed superannuation funds.

Superannuation purchases have underpinned the art industry, with sales in the past decade accounting for an estimated 10-15 per cent of all business. But the recent Cooper review advised that art should be ineligible as an asset within SMSFs.

According to Save Super Art, galleries and auction houses on the east and west coasts have reported a downturn in business since the review was published early this month.

Diane Mossenson, whose gallery represents Petyarre and Kemarre, said the Sotheby's results confirmed that buyers were exercising significant caution.

"There was a lot of Papunya Tula work that didn't do well despite reasonable prices," she said, adding that works from the Alice Springs gallery had always been very collectable.

The Waterhouse win for second-generation painter Petyarre — a finalist in more than 20 competitions whose work is held by the federal government's Artbank and other notable collections — crowned a steady rise to recognition over 20 years.



STEVE STRIKE

Painter Josie Kunoth Petyarre, from Utopia in the Northern Territory, is being thwarted by a downturn in the art market

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return per annum

Super (rowth)	3.74%
Super (rowth)	4.02%
Super (nced)	4.51%
tralian shares	6.63%
Cash	4.41%

SuperRatings; results up to June 30

was Local Government representing local government workers, which returned cent.

resnahan said what made stand apart from other as active management of tments, which enabled it kly take advantage of ent opportunities or reposure to poorly perform-

T have been very active ng their assets around . . . ve a lot of money in and set classes," he said.

y retail master trusts, in t, were restricted in how could move away from chmark allocations.

resnahan said the big dif-in performance between ed funds showed the inherent in the MySuper fund, proposed by the review, which would nds wide latitude in how ested members' assets.

of the worst performing d funds in the past three MTAA (-8.3 per cent a id Statewide (-8 per cent), uch higher exposure to l assets like property than nds but still carry the label ed".

ple will assume that be-'s got the same label on it, nced funds are the same," nahan said.

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ROSEMARY

A NOVEL ab tralia as an ex has made the world's most prize.

Christos Ts story told from tives about a barbecue (and ions about means), is on year's Man B tion.

Chosen as read books for mer, *The Slap* Pulitzer Prize Jane Smiley i study of "mul tralia, where all ethnic gro persuasions a and intermar some of the ti handle it".

*The Slap* h Premier's Lit Australian I Gold Medal wealth Writ Melbourne novel, after *Jesus Man*, a was made into

The "13 ex were chosen to the past wo according to t five-person j mer poet l Motion.

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Tsiolkas where he ha residence lea burgh Intern val next mon published in l Allen & Un stalled as an take out the Man Booker, ite, fellow Au ey's *Parrot a ica*.

Carey, who twice, for *Osc True History* the highest- this year's lor

Some of th names in lit snubbed by th Ian McEwan

The most s is Emma Do story told fro of a boy kept mother by a which the Iri in Canada, l sational rev trian Josef Fr his daughter

The shortl September 7.