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Alex Mitchell's

LONDON NOTEBOOK



NEW PAINTINGS: Aboriginal artist Emily Kame Kngwarreye's work is on display in London for the second time.

UK finds Utopia

WHAT a delight to visit Rebecca Hossack's gallery in central London to find a new exhibition of the work of Aboriginal artist Emily Kame Kngwarreye.

It is the second time that her work has been exhibited in Ms Hossack's gallery. Extraordinary recognition for a painter who has recently turned 87!

Emily lives and paints on an Aboriginal freehold property north-east of Alice Springs called Utopia. The Utopia "school" is now highly sought in Australia, Europe and the US for its distinctive portrayal of hunting scenes, dancing, daily life and native animals.

The 10 new works on display in London go way beyond the "tribal" art in brown, red, black and white we usually see from the Alice. Emily is now using pastel colours on large canvasses to create semi-pointilist paintings in the style of Monet and some of the impressionists.

Emily's work is in the class of the late Fred Williams. "I think she is Australia's greatest living landscape painter," Ms Hossack said.

In the downstairs gallery, Ms Hossack is also showing some works by Jimmy Pike which, as always, are heroically beautiful. The only trouble with these wonderful pieces of art is you have to be Janet Holmes à Court to be able to afford them.