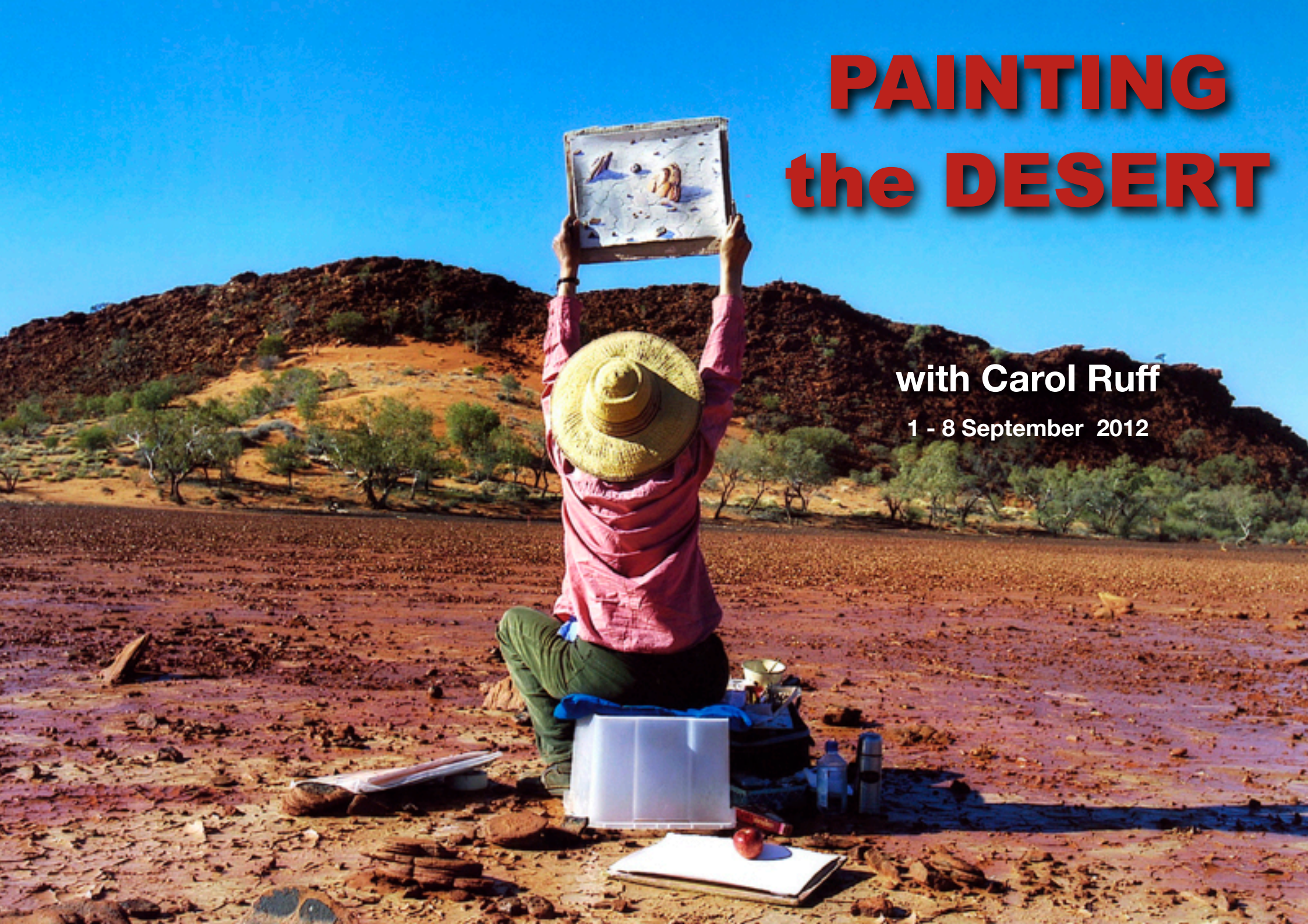


# **PAINTING the DESERT**

**with Carol Ruff**

**1 - 8 September 2012**



# PAINTING THE DESERT - 2012

PAINTING THE DESERT with CAROL RUFF will be based at Hermannsburg, 100 kilometres from Alice Springs and the home of the famous watercolour artist, Albert Namatjira. *Into the Blue* has formed a close relationship with the Arrernte traditional owners of the Western MacDonnell Range, which will enable us to walk a trail on which we will be totally alone. Simply us with the landscape, our art, and under the guidance of the local people who will share their stories and explain the significance of country. We will be based at Hermannsburg, a community that contains the old Lutheran Mission buildings, a visually evocative site for artists, and quite different to the bush where we will walk "on country" with the traditional owners.



Carol has had many years painting *en plein air* in the desert, and has extensive experience as a mural facilitator and teacher. She communicates easily with both new and established artists and works in all painting and drawing mediums. The weather is ideal for painters, lovely spring weather in the day. The country in 2011 will be breathtaking after the once in a hundred year rainfall of the past year.

Your facilitator, **Carol Ruff** is an established artist who has returned to the Alice Springs region annually for over twenty years to paint *en plein air*. She is passionate about this country and the vast possibilities it offers visual artists. Trained in Fine Art Painting at the South Australian School of Art, she is currently represented by Australian Galleries in Sydney, where she exhibited her recent paintings about the central desert in Desert Air in 2007, and Love Creek Bitter Springs in 2009. A previous exhibition Site Seeing, focused on the sacred and significant Arrernte sites in the town of Alice Springs was exhibited at Hogarth Gallery. Her work is represented in a number of public collections. She is a prolific mural artist, and two of these collaborations with Indigenous Arrernte artists can be seen on the Yeperenye Centre in Alice Springs, and in the Alice Springs hospital foyer. Carol's film 50 Years of Silence won eight awards including a Logie. She lives in Sydney and runs an artist space gallery in Clovelly. To find out more go to [www.carolruff.com](http://www.carolruff.com)

Sat	Assemble at 2pm in foyer of the Alice Springs Resort - visit Araluen Arts Centre - final briefing in the evening. Dine at the Alice Springs Resort.
Sun	Walk from the Resort along the Todd River for the initial class. Transfer to our private desert camp at Davenport Creek in the foothills of Mt Sonder via some iconic landmarks. [4 hours easy/medium grade walking with time to stop and paint]
Mon	Paint in the mesmerizing Ormiston Gorge. Return to Sonder Camp
Tues	Enjoy a gentle walk from camp paint by the creek. Travel to Tjilpa camp on the Aboriginal community of Ipolera via Tyler's Pass with a view of the extraordinary Tnorala [Gosses Bluff]. We will be met by our hosts, Traditional Owner Herman Malbunka and Custodian Mavis Malbunka.. Camp at the Tjilpa Camp on Aranda country
Wed	Enjoy a day at the Tjilpa Camp. Mavis conducts a women's business visit while the men go to a secret men's place. Spend some quiet time in painting in this beautiful place. Evening meal with the Malbunka family. .
Thur	Break camp and travel to Palm Valley for a painting session. Return to the township of Hermannsburg, a place steeped in the history and drama of the Central Australian story. We will camp in the old Mission Cultural Precinct and spend the evening with local people.
Fri	Break camp after a morning in Hermannsburg painting the old building. Wind our way back to Alice Springs via a short walk to Standley Chasm, a twisting maze of gorges and inspiration. Participate in a celebratory evening meal at the Resort.
Sat	Breakfast at the Resort and then personal time in Alice Springs before shuttle return to airport.

## TOTAL COST OF \$2990 INCLUDES

- 2 nights accommodation at the ALICE SPRINGS RESORT - twin share - [single upgrade \$150 per night] - includes cooked breakfasts.
- 4 nights desert camp under the stars with all camping equipment provided.
- 1 night accommodation in the historic township of Hermannsburg
- All 4 WD coach transport on trip.
- Formal & on-track workshops with facilitator.
- Comprehensive and powerful indigenous interactions.
- Licensed guided Larapinta & Ilpurla Trail walks with lead guide, support vehicle & camp manager.
- All cooked breakfasts, morning & afternoon teas, lunches, dinners, snacks on the track.
- Araluen Arts Centre & the Namajira Galley on first Saturday.
- Private camps and indigenous interactions.
- First aid, satellite phones, all National Park fees etc.
- Surprises that you will just have to take my word for.

### EXCLUSIONS:

- airfares - flight options can be viewed on the website
- evening meals in the Alice Springs Resort
- alcohol

A NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT OF \$600 WILL SECURE YOUR BOOKING. ALL TRIP NOTES AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

[www.intotheblue.com.au](http://www.intotheblue.com.au)

or call 0414 929768

# PAINTING THE DESERT - 2012

## OVERALL

**Into the Blue** designs your itinerary around the capacity and objectives of the group. The itinerary seeks to blend all elements such as indigenous culture, interpretation and art. Please note that the itinerary may change due to weather, aboriginal cultural imperatives or simply to better suit the objectives of the group.

## WORKSHOP

Each season sees the program delve further into the drama, emotional story, tragedy and beauty that is the Central Australian story. Participants should provide their own art materials (detailed art equipment lists next page). We will be carrying a simple day-pack and your drawing and camera equipment should be light and portable. A support vehicle will carry heavier equipment and materials such as canvas or drawing boards to campsites. Large tables are available at Hermannsburg and at the artists camp at Ipolera. If you would like to discuss art related questions you can contact the Carol at [cruff@iinet.net.au](mailto:cruff@iinet.net.au). A visit to an art supply shop in Alice Springs will be arranged for the purchase of art materials such as fixative spray, which cannot be transported by plane.

**ABORIGINAL** The aboriginal interactions are a feature of the PAINTING THE DESERT program. Meaningful and personal interaction with some of Central Australia's most articulate and passionate indigenous advocates is a profound highlight of the trip. We will spend extended time with aboriginal artists as well.

## FITNESS

The walking component of PAINTING THE DESERT allows you to feel the landscape around you. The walks will not be compulsory and alternate activities can be found, however, the walking will allow you to appreciate remote places and draw, sketch and paint where none else can. Please contact Into the Blue to discuss any fitness issues. If you decide to walk you will carry a simple day pack that includes water, jacket, lunch, camera etc.

## CAMP LIFE

Our nights under the stars will be a highlight of the trip. Whilst the facilities are basic there will be a composting toilet & swimming possibilities. Sleeping will be in comfortable swags and/or tents. All camping gear is supplied. You will be expected to share some tasks around the camp such as rolling your swag etc.

## HERMANSBURG

We stay in our swags in the old Hermannsburg Precinct. There are showers and flushing toilets available during our stay at the Hermannsburg Precinct.

## CLIMATE

Expect cool nights and warm, clear days. This is generally a magnificent time of the year in the Australian desert with everything that crawls soundly asleep and no or few flies.

## WHAT TO BRING

A printable equipment and clothing list is provided on the website under the PAINTING THE DESERT journey. There is a separate list for art equipment on the website

## FLIGHTS & ACCOMMODATION

All accommodation is at the Alice Springs Resort. If walkers are intending to arrive earlier in Alice or to stay longer they can book their own accommodation at the Alice Springs Resort at the Into the Blue corporate rate. When booking quote the Into the Blue Trip Name. CONTACT - 08 89514545

## ALCOHOL

There will be no alcohol on this trip as we are on aboriginal land for the duration.

## UPON BOOKING

A representative of the Into the Blue shall call you upon booking. Final payment is due one month before your departure. Please don't hesitate to call with any questions you might have.

# PAINTING THE DESERT - 2011

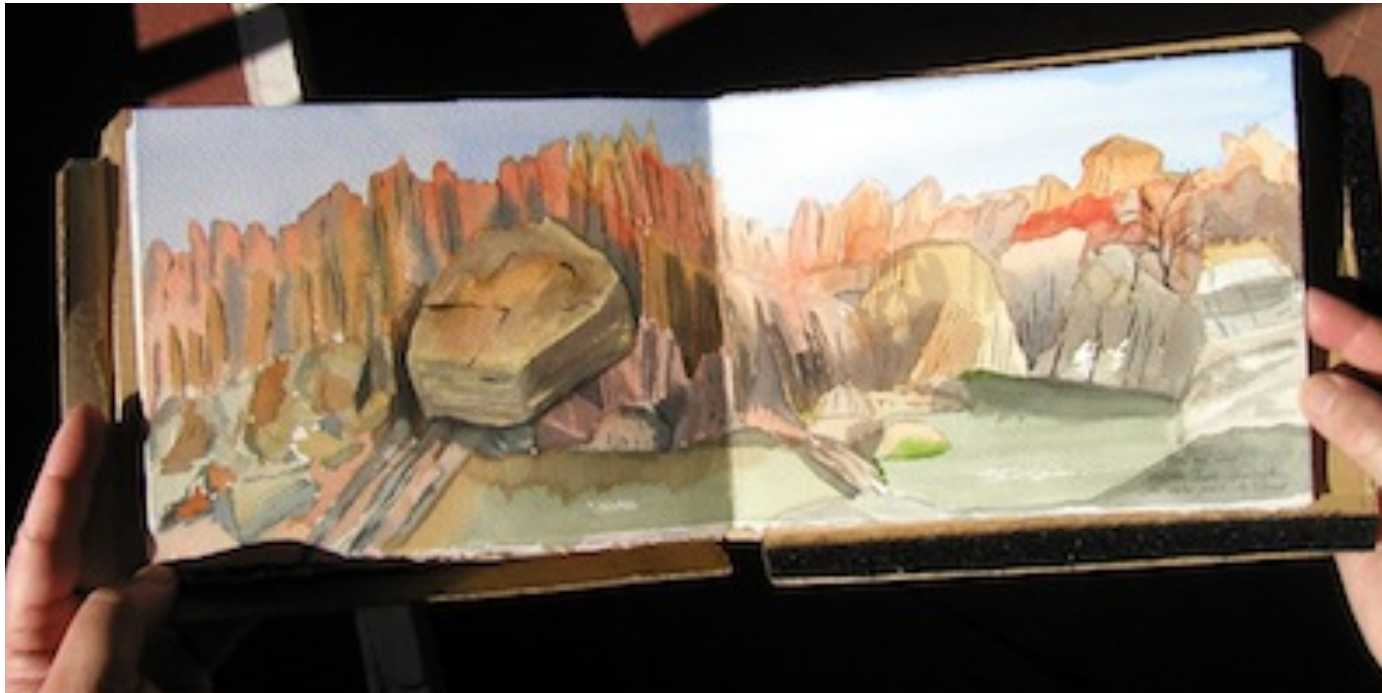
## Art Materials

You will need a light-weight back pack in which you will carry your painting kit, sketchbook, paper and boards, water, a small camera, a warm hat and jacket, a cap or brimmed hat, sunblock, a light canvas cloth to sit on (optional), a head torch and lunch.

A support vehicle will carry heavier equipment and materials such as canvas or drawing boards to campsites. Large tables are provided at each camp. At Hermannsburg we will have access to covered areas, tables and the ability to establish a group studio space.

## Suitable Painting Mediums

Watercolours are a perfect *plein air* medium as they are very lightweight, and require little water for brush cleaning. Gouache, a form of water colour, are also suitable. For drawing, coloured inks are portable and vibrant, and can be used to wash with pencil or Indian ink.



A lightweight visual diary is useful for quick notes made along the way.

Acrylics are heavy but can be accommodated if you have a strong back or they can be used at base camp in Hermannsburg.

Pastels and charcoal are messy, and you will need fixative and Wet Ones, as washing water is limited.

Oil paints are complicated as you will be carrying wet canvases, but could be used at the base camp. I suggest if you use oils that you bring a fast drying medium such as Liquin, and boards instead of stretched canvas. Items such as large sheets of paper and fixative can be ordered into the Alice Springs art store.

*Please note that oil paint and fixative cannot be taken on a plane as hand luggage, or any paint in tubes.*