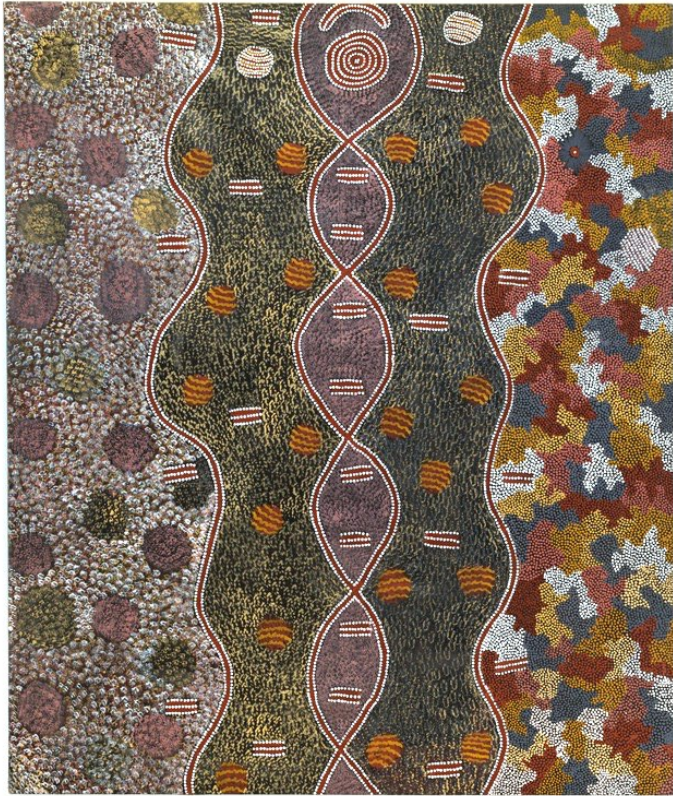


Editing Nature

Integrating science and collective wisdom to create environmental solutions using gene technologies



Dinny Nolan Tjampitjinpa, *Water Dreaming at Mikanji*, 1988 (YPM ANT.261347)
Courtesy of the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History; peabody.yale.edu.

DNA is the basic building block of life. It is shared by all living things, supplying commonality between single cell bacteria and elephants; connecting us with nature. With the recent advent of a new technology called CRISPR, we can now alter that very sequence of life, efficiently and cheaply, through a process called gene editing. The potential of this technology is incredible; using gene editing we could create drought-resistant trees to fight climate change, eradicate malaria by altering mosquito DNA, and engineer new biodegradable materials for a truly sustainable future. But, without careful consideration and foresight, gene editing could also irreversibly destroy ecosystems and drastically transform the natural world as we know it.

Rooted in a deep respect for science, our planet and each other, the Editing Nature Summit hosted by the Yale Institute for Biospheric Studies, in partnership with the Yale Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics, seeks to integrate science and collective wisdom to honor the complexity of gene editing and the networks it could affect. The Editing Nature Summit will bring together visionaries from diverse backgrounds to explore the potential of gene editing for environmental solutions, steer its responsible use, and promote effective public engagement. Pioneering a new model that nurtures inclusivity and transparency, the mission of the Editing Nature Summit is to cultivate creativity from diversity and innovate thoughtful solutions for our planet.

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