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Datebook: Paintings that serve as reflections of indigenous life in Australia

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“Kungka Kutjarra (Two Women),” 2001, in “Desert Painters of Australia Part II” at Gagosian Gallery, on view through Sept. 26. (Rob McKeever / Makinti Napanangka / Artists Rights Society)

A collection of Australian indigenous paintings, radical new works of performance and paintings that toy with the nature of light — here are eight exhibitions and events to check out in the coming week.

“Desert Painters of Australia Part II,” at Gagosian Gallery. The forced displacement and resettlement of Australia’s indigenous communities in the 20th century resulted in a shift in the ways in which those populations made art: Forms such as sand drawing and tree carving were reborn on paper and canvas. This show looks at some of that output, featuring works by important 20th century artists such as George Tjungurrayi, Warlimpirrnga Tjapaltjarri and Yukultji Napangati — among other artists who employed pattern in ways both expressive and geometric. This show is a follow-up to an earlier exhibition of indigenous Australian art held at one of Gagosian’s New York locations in the spring and is drawn from the collection of actor Steve Martin and his wife Anne Stringfield.