

the village **VOICE**

Warlimpirrnga Tjapaltjarri



By Nikkitha Bakshani

Warlimpirrnga Tjapaltjarri: You don't have to say the Aboriginal Australian artist's name three times, but you definitely want to visit Salon 94 Bowery to witness his oil paintings, which portray sinuous lines of dots evoking the movements of sand in the deserts Down Under. The effect of his ropelike lines on the large canvas can be described as hypnotic, almost like optical illusions in the way the paintings seem to shimmy after you look at them for a few seconds. Tjapaltjarri is one of central Australia's most prominent artists, and his works have been displayed in Melbourne's National Gallery of Victoria, Paris's Musée de Quai Branly, and Cambridge's Harvard Art Museums, among others. The abstractness of his paintings challenges the stereotype that indigenous art is not more than utilitarian craftsmanship, and this exhibit – his New York debut, and the first exhibit he is leaving his native country to see – is a powerful testament to Tjapaltjarri's artistry.