

Garden creators aim for Chelsea glory

By **BECK ELEVEN**

AUSTRALIA'S great green hope in this year's prestigious British event, the Chelsea Flower Show, will use a 20-metre painting by Gabriella Possum Nungurrayi as its backdrop.

The 200-square-metre garden, sponsored by Fleming's Nurseries and designed by the green-fingered television celebrity Jamie Durie, is an attempt at representing essential Australian flora framed by a desert scape, wetland, beachside, fire-pit and the earth-toned painting.

Ms Nungurrayi, the eldest

daughter of the artist Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarri, said the painting took about a week to complete, and represented a river journey.

Fleming's Nurseries director and project innovator, Wes Fleming, said the firm's previous four consecutive entries had taken gold or silver medals, but this year they were confident of taking the top prize, Best in Show.

All plants in the exhibit are native but all will be sourced from growers across Europe. One palm tree will be shipped from

Italy at a cost of \$15,000.

Among the most expensive inclusions, at \$180,000, are 3500 individually laser-cut pieces of rock from the Kimberley region. The total cost of the garden, including the painting, travel, staff and accommodation, is \$650,000.

Four shipping containers packed with the dismantled artwork, tools, timber and rocks leave Australia next month for the May 20-24 show.



Artist Gabriella Possum Nungurrayi and organiser Wes Fleming with her backdrop for the Chelsea Flower Show entry.

PICTURE: JOHN WOULDSTRA