



Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre
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Artist Biography

Artist: Djirrirra Wunungmurra
Date of Birth: 02/09/1968
Homeland: Gurrumuru
Clan: Dhalwanju, Narrkala
Moiety: Yirritja



Djirrirra (also known as Yukuwa) assisted her father, Yanggarriny Wunungmurra (1932-2003), in his Telstra Award winning painting of 1997 and continually up until his death in 2003. She has also assisted her brother Nawurapu Wunungmurra, but now primarily paints her own works. Her father granted her this authority whilst he was alive. Her precise hand and geometric style has increasingly attracted enthusiastic interest from the art world. As she came to the notice of Buku-Larrnggay co-ordinators for her exquisite hand and innovative composition she was included in her first major exhibition and her first visit to the world outside of Arnhem Land, in a show at Raft Artspace in Darwin in 2006 which featured her and two other Gangan artists, Yumutjin Wunungmurra and Waturr Gumana. In 2007 she was selected for Cross Currents, a major art survey at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney. Her rise to a level of notice was cemented when she was announced Winner of the TOGA Northern Territory Contemporary Art Award in 2008. From here she was invited to her first solo show at Vivien Anderson Gallery in 2009. She has lived at the remote homeland of Gangan since she was born (before Western housing was erected) and has three children. She has exhibited in the US and China and in Australia with Vivien Anderson Gallery in Melbourne and Short street in Broome. In 2012 she followed her father and brother as a Telstra winner with Best Bark at the 29th NATSIAA with a new theme- Yukuwa. In Found at Annandale in 2013 she followed Gunybi Ganambarr into extending her use of media beyond naturally occurring ochres and bark to include recycled found industrial waste materials such as MDF and perspex louvres. In this year she again visited the US as part of a print collaboration between the Yirrkala Print Space and the Tamarind Institute where she worked with American Indigenous artists in Albuquerque. In 'Black and White' at Outstation Gallery in 2017 her lyrical Yukuwa (yam) inspired paintings on board featured in collaboration with an installation of her brothers Larrakitj. Yukuwa is one of the personal names of the artist and Yukuwa has become a distinct theme in her practice. This motif first arose when she had been challenged about her right to paint Buyku the fishtrap imagery of her own clan and homeland by a family member. Rather than argue she retorted by painting imagery which in one sense is her own personal identity.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2011** Rite of Spring / Rrarrandharr Malaluba solo show - Cross Art Projects Sydney
2010 Yukuwa- Bark Paintings and Larrakitj - Short St Gallery, Broome WA

Group Exhibitions

- 2019** Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Whitlam Institute Gallery UWS NSW
2019 Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Cowra Regional Art Gallery, Cowra NSW
2019 Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong NSW
2018 Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Warwick Art Gallery, Warwick QLD

- 2018** Fecund: Fertile Worlds - Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 2018** Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, Caboolture, QLD
- 2018** Fecund: Fertile Worlds - Nyinkka Nyunyu Cultural Centre, Tennant Creek NT
- 2018** Fecund: Fertile Worlds - Godinyamayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Culture Centre, Katherine, NT
- 2018** Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Griffith Regional Art Gallery, Griffith NSW
- 2018** Fecund: Fertile Worlds - Northern Centre for Contemporary Arts, Darwin NT
- 2018** Womens Show - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2017** Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Tasmanian Museum And Art Gallery, Hobart TAS
- 2017** Earth Matters: Aboriginal artwork from the Kimberley and Arnhem Land - FORM - The Goods Shed, Perth WA
- 2017** Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Bayside Arts and Cultural Centre Gallery, Brighton Victoria.
- 2017** Saltwater: A Collection of Bark Paintings & Carved Objects - Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree NSW
- 2017** 34th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Islander Art Awards - Finalist - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
- 2017** Black & White: New works by Nawurapu Wunurjmurra & Djirrirra Wunurjmurra - Outstation - Art from Art Centres, Darwin NT
- 2017** Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Castlemaine State Festival, Castlemaine Market Building VIC
- 2017** Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - University of Newcastle Gallery, Newcastle NSW
- 2017** Legends and Lore - Artitja Fine Art, Perth WA
- 2016** Scratching the Surface - Alliance Francaise of Sydney, Sydney NSW
- 2016** Tradition & Innovation - Paris Parcours des Mondes 2016-Aboriginal Signature • Estrangin Gallery
- 2016** The Salon des Refusés 2016 - Charles Darwin University Art Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2016** Gilatj – new work on glass from Buku Larrnggay Mulka - Outstation - Art from Art Centres, Darwin NT
- 2016** Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Charles Darwin University Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2016** Mala - Together as a Group - Raft Artspace - Core Collective Studio Space, Hobart TAS
- 2015** Patternation - Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gympie NSW
- 2015** Lundumirringu - Annandale Galleries, Sydney NSW
- 2015** Balnhdhurr: A Lasting Impression – Tarnanthi 2015 - Adelaide College of the Arts, Adelaide SA
- 2015** Lumggurma - Brumby Ute Aspen, Colorado USA
- 2014** Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
- 2013** Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
- 2013** FOUND - Annandale Galleries, Sydney NSW
- 2013** Prized - Nomad Art, Darwin, NT
- 2012** Gan'yu Gallery, Darwin Festival - Darwin, NT
- 2012** The Art of Arnhem Land - JGM Gallery, London UK
- 2012** "I am Yukuwa" - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2011** Barrku! Treasures from a Distant Land - Harvey Art Projects, Sun Valley, Idaho USA
- 2011** 28th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
- 2011** Womens Show - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2011** Miyalk - Women, Feminine Art from Yirrkala - Framed Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2010** 27th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
- 2010** 17th Biennale of Sydney - Larrakitj, the Kerry Stokes Collection - Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney NSW
- 2010** The White Show - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA

- 2010** Womens Show - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2010** Indigenous Art of the Northern Territory, from north east Arnhem Land to the Western Desert - Chunshen Cultural Square, Shanghai, China
- 2010** 'Returning to Djakapurra' - A Collection of Poles and Barks from Yirrkala - Redot Gallery, Singapore
- 2010** Djirrirra and Dhuwarrwarr, Bark Paintings at Santa Fe - Chiaroscuro Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico USA
- 2010** 'Yukuwa' - Bark Paintings and Larrakitj - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2009** 'Buyku' - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2009** 26th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
- 2009** Larrakitj, The Kerry Stokes Collection, - Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, WA
- 2009** Womens Show - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2009** Yalari Art Auction - Brisbane, QLD
- 2008** Togart Contemporary Art Award - Winner - New Convention Centre, Darwin NT
- 2008** Outside Inside - Bark and Hollow Logs from Yirrkala - Bett Gallery Hobart, TAS
- 2008** A Few Real Gems I Have Come Across - Mogo Raw Art and Blues, Mogo, NSW
- 2007** Cross Currents - Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, NSW
- 2007** Bukulungthunmi - Coming Together, One Place - Raft Artspace, Darwin NT
- 2007** Galuku Gallery - Darwin Festival, Darwin Botanical Gardens, NT
- 2006** Ngann Girra Festival - Albury Regional Museum, NSW
- 2006** Gangan, Waturr Yumutjin Djirrirra - Raft Artspace, Darwin NT
- 2006** 'Bulayi- Small Gems' - Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, Brisbane QLD
- 2006** Arnhem Land Ochres - Mina Mina Art Gallery Brunswick Heads, NSW
- 2005** 'Yäkumirri' - Raft Artspace, Darwin NT

Mediums

Earth pigments on Stringybark

Earth pigment on board

Earth pigment on glass

Earth pigments on Stringybark hollow pole

Earth pigment on Perspex

Etching

Screenprint

Lithograph

Collections

Woodside Energy Ltd. Art Collection

Kerry Stokes Collection, Perth WA

The Laverty Collection, Sydney NSW

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney NSW

Levi and Kaplan Collection, Seattle USA

TOGA Group Companies Art Collection

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT

Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane QLD

Bibliography

- 2007** Catalogue: Cross Currents - Focus n Australian Contemporary Art. A publication by the Museum of Contemporary Art ISBN: 9781921034206 pp132 - 139

Bibliography

- 2010** Catalogue: 17th Biennale of Sydney - The Beauty of Distance, Songs of Survival, in a Precarious Age. ISBN 978 0 64652 794 9
- 2013** Annandale Galleries Catalogue: Found - http://www.annandalegalleries.com.au/images/Catalogue_LR.pdf

Awards

- 2012** Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Darwin NT - Winner Best Bark Painting
- 2008** TOGA Northern Territory Contemporary Art Award - Winner