



# Short St. Gallery

## Mildred Minggi Mungulu



<b>Born</b>	1957
<b>Region</b>	West Kimberley
<b>Language</b>	Worrora, Wunambal

### Biography

Mildred was born at Derby in the old Native Hospital (Numbala Nunga) and spent her 22 years at Mowanjum ("old site") on the Derby Highway. This was where Mildred watched her father Alan Mungulu (dec) make didgeridoos and boomerangs at home. "When I was there I would see him do them." It was being near the traditional crafting of these objects that created a connection to the traditional culture which assisted Mildred's own craft as a painter. In 1979 the community was moved to a new site on the Gibb River Road and this is where Mildred now resides. Mildred started her career as an exhibiting artist in 1998 and belongs to one of the most established traditional families in Mowanjum. Mildred has exhibited in Sydney, Perth, Derby, Broome and Woodford, Queensland. As the family grew up Mildred's sisters, Sandra, Marjorie, Margaret and Robyn, also developed into painters with the artistic dynasty led by "mum", Gudu Mungulu, a significant Mowanjum painter in her own right. Mildred paints, "what represents us, from our mothers and fathers. We keep it going from genera on to generation." Mildred's paintings demonstrate an array of traditional symbolic representations, including Wandjinas from the three tribes of the Mowanjum community: the Ngarinyin, Worrora and Wanambal tribes. Coastal Wandjina are signified by the series of circular lines crossed with radial lines fanning from the Wandjina's head. It has been said this represents a cyclone and lightning. Other Wandjinas are surrounded by animals made sacred by the Wandjina and the snake that gives childless couples hope. The owl (dumbi) is the wise councillor to the Wandjina and the Gyorn Gyorn are shown gathering food and dancing at ceremonies for the Wandjinas. Mildred advises: "Gyorn gyorn are like food gatherers and help Wandjinas with things. Ungud (waterhole) help couples who can't have kids. In the pool of water the couple go swimming and get pregnant. Fishes are from the caves (Bradshaw caves). You know like in the books. Turtles, they get Wandjinas in them too. The two birds have two skins, Wodoi and Jungun. All the same skin, can't marry. Skins in the Mowanjum community can marry if skin is different." Some female forms are described by Mildred as "Jilinya- she likes stealing men. When men go



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in the bush and are gone, it's her." Mildred spent many years working at Kimberley Health and has a partially completed qualification in Community Health undertaken at Curtin University.

## Group Exhibitions

2017 paintings & prints Derby Christmas Markets  
2017 Sydney Opera House Sydney Homeground Markets  
2017 Paintings Tamaranthi Art Fair (Adelaide, South Australia)  
2017 paintings Darwin Art Fair  
2017 Emerging Aboriginal Western Australian Artists (Fremantle Gallery - Perth) Revealed  
2009 Sharing Difference on Common Ground – Holmes a Court Gallery & touring nationally  
2009 Mowanjum Festival – Mowanjum Art and Culture Centre, Derby  
2008 Shinju Matsuri Wandjina Buddha Budding – Broome 6 Gallery  
2008 Mowanjum Festival – Mowanjum Art Centre  
2008 Cultural Connections - Aritija Art Gallery Perth  
2008 Spirit of the Wandjina - Shinju Matsuri Exhibition Broome 6 Gallery  
2007 Mowanjum Festival - Mowanjum Art and Culture Centre, Derby  
2007 Arralululai - Broome 6 Gallery 2007 Mowanjum Exhibition - Woodford Dreaming Festival, QLD  
2006 Spirit of the Wandjina - Governor Stirling Tower, Perth  
2006 Power of the Wandjina - Macquarie University Sydney  
2005 Spirit of the Wandjina - Broome 6 Gallery 2005 Keeping the Wandjinas Fresh - Exhibition and book launch - Alexander Library Perth  
2005 Mowanjum Festival - Mowanjum Community  
2005 Mowanjum Exhibition - Festival of the Dreaming Woodford, QLD  
2004 Mowanjum Exhibition - Sydney Dreaming Festival  
2004 Mowanjum Festival - Mowanjum Community  
2003 Mowanjum Festival - Mowanjum Community  
2003 Spirit of the Wandjina - Harvey Bay QLD  
2002 Visions from the Cave - Sun Picture Theatre, Broome  
2002 Mowanjum Festival - Mowanjum Community  
2001 Recent Works - Melbourne Spirit of the Wandjina Gallery  
2001 Mowanjum Festival - Mowanjum Community  
2000 The Art of the Wandjina - Sydney Olympics Exhibition, NSW  
2000 Spirit of the Wandjina - Compass Travel Postonja Slovenia  
2000 Mowanjum Festival - Mowanjum Community  
2000 Spirit of the Wandjina Exhibition – Melbourne  
1999 Power of the Wandjina - Telstra National Headquarters – Melbourne  
1999 Recent Works - Spirit of the Wandjina Gallery, Melbourne  
1999 Power of the Wandjina - Governor Stirling Tower, Perth  
1999 Spirit of the Wandjina Exhibition - Governor Place, Sydney  
1999 Mowanjum Festival - Mowanjum Community



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1998 Spirit of the Wandjina - Telstra National Headquarters, Melbourne  
1998 Mowanjum Festival - Mowanjum Community  
1998 Mowanjum Wandjina Art – Matzo's Broome  
1998 Spirit of the Wandjina – Grosvenor Place, Sydney  
1997 Mowanjum Festival - Mowanjum Community