



Short St. Gallery

Marrnyula Mununggurr

Born 1964
Language Group Yolgnu
Region Wandawuy



Biography

Marrnyula began working for the Buku-Larrngay Mulka Centre whilst Steve Fox was the art co-ordinator in the 1980's. She still resides at Yirkala to work at Buku-Larrngay Mulka as an artist and senior printmaker in the Printspace. As well as being an artworker she was brought up in one of the most artistically prolific camps in Yirkala over this period. Both her mother Nongirmga and her father Djutjadjutja (dec. c.1935-1999) were constantly producing art with the help of their sons and daughters. She grew to assist her father (winner of the 1997 Best Bark painting prize National Aboriginal and Islander Art Award) with his sacred Djapu paintings as well as developing her own style of narrative naïve paintings. All this whilst providing material support and moral leadership for her large family and being 'mother' to her brother's three children.

In 2007 Marrnyula exhibited works at Annandale Gallery with her Mother Nongirmga Marawili where they painted the Djapu clan design. In 2009 she was featured in a major survey of contemporary art 'Making it New' at the MCA in Sydney. She was a participant in the Djalkiri project with John Wolseley and Fiona Hall, which is still touring Australia. In 2013 she exhibited at Seva Frangos Gallery, Perth and at Marshall Arts, Adelaide in 2014. In early 2015 her groundbreaking installation of 252 barks at Gertrude Street Contemporary brought significant notice. Arranging a number of small barks has remained a major theme in her works since. In 2019 an installation of over 200 barks was exhibited during the Tarnanthi Festival in Adelaide at the Art Gallery of South Australia.

In 2020 a work of hers which used painted representations of the flurry of small barks, but which was actually only one large bark, won Best Bark Prize at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award.

Solo Exhibitions

2025	Djapu – Sullivan + Strumpf, Sydney, NSW
2023	Ganybu – Fish Traps of Wandawuy – Sullivan + Strumpf, Sydney, NSW
2002	Marrnyula - Raft Artspace, Darwin NT



Short St. Gallery

Group Exhibitions

2025	Yolŋu Power - The Art of Yirrkala - Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney
2023	Nānḡl'manydji - From the mother - Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney
2020	Talking Blak to History - National Museum of Australia
2020	Djora - Works on Paper - Raft Gallery, Alice Springs
2020	Daughters of Law - Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney
2019	Tamanthi 2019 - Art Gallery of South Australia
2019	Rendezvous - ARTKELCH Freiburg i. Br., Germany
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	Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, Caboolture, QLD
2018	Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Griffith Regional Art Gallery, Griffith NSW
2017	Balnnhdhurr - A lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart TAS
2017	Gapu-Monuk: Saltwater Journey to Sea Country - National Australian Maritime Museum
2017	Entwined - Tamanthi 2017 - Santos Museum of Economic Botany, Botanical Gardens of South Australia
2017	Tamanthi 2017 - Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA
2017	Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Bayside Arts and Cultural Centre Gallery, Brighton Victoria.
2017	Gapan Gallery 2017 - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
2017	Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Castlemaine State Festival, Castlemaine Market Building VIC
2017	Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - University of Newcastle Gallery, Newcastle NSW
2017	Legends and Lore - Artitja Fine Art, Perth WA
2017	Mulka - ARTKELCH Collectors Lounge @ kptec, Schorndorf (close to Stuttgart), Germany
2017	Buku-Larnnggay - Art Karlsruhe, Germany
2017	Buku-Larnnggay - ARTKELCH, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany



Short St. Gallery

- 2016 Who's Afraid of Colour? - National Gallery of Victoria, Federation Square, Melbourne VIC
- 2016 Intersect/ Zero Metres Above Sea Level - Cross Art Projects, Sydney NSW
- 2016 Gapan Gallery, Darwin - Nomad Art, Darwin NT
- 2016 Gapan Gallery in the Past - Nomad Art Productions, Darwin NT
- 2016 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Printspace Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
- 2016 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression- Charles Darwin University Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2016 Aboriginal Signature - Aboriginal Signature Gallery Brussels, Belgium
- 2015 Balnhdhurr: A Lasting Impression – Tarnanthi 2015 - Adelaide College of the Arts, Adelaide SA
- 2015 String Theory: Focus on contemporary Australian art (National tour) - Glasshouse, Port Macquarie NSW
- 2015 Revolution: New work celebrating 20 years of printmaking at Yirrkala Print Space. - Nomad Art, Darwin
- 2015 Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, North East Arnhem Land, NT
- 2015 String Theory: Focus on contemporary Australian art (National tour) - Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong NSW
- 2015 Mother to Daughter: On Art and Caring for Homelands - The Cross Art Projects, Sydney NSW
- 2015 String Theory: Focus on contemporary Australian art (National tour) - Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns QLD
- 2015 Ganybu - Gertrude Contemporary, Melbourne VIC
- 2014 String Theory: Focus on contemporary Australian art (National tour) Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, Caboolture QLD
- 2014 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Group Exhibition - Marshall Arts, Adelaide SA
- 2014 String Theory: Focus on contemporary Australian art (National tour) - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
- 2013 The Old Modern Earth - Wukun Wanambi & Marmyula Mununggurr-Seva Frangos Art, Perth WA
- 2013 String Theory: Focus on contemporary Australian art - Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), Sydney NSW
- 2013 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Printmakers Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land, NT
- 2012 Ganyu (Stars) Gallery - Darwin Festival
- 2011 Barrku! Treasures from a Distant Land - Harvey Art Projects, Sun Valley, Idaho USA
- 2010 27th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT



Short St. Gallery

2010	Djalkiri - we are standing on their names - Nomad Art, 24-Hour Art, Darwin Festival, Darwin, NT
2010	Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Print Space - Collograph Print Exhibition – Gapan Gallery, Festival of Darwin, NT
2010	17th Biennale of Sydney - Larrakitj, the Kerry Stokes Collection - Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney NSW
2010	Water Traps - Bark Paintings & Larrakitj - Alison Kelly Gallery, Melbourne VIC
2010	Etched in the Sun, Prints made by Indigenous artists in collaboration with Basil Hall & Printers - Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection, University of Virginia, USA 2010
2009	Making it New - a Survey of Contemporary Art - Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney NSW
2009	'After Berndt - Etchings from the Drawings - Indigenart, Subiaco. WA
2009	Larrakitj, The Kerry Stokes Collection - Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth, WA
2009	'After Berndt - Etchings from the Drawings - Mossenson Gallery, Perth, WA
2008	After Berndt - Etchings from the Drawings, Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, NT
2008	Etched in the Sun Prints made by Indigenous Artists in collaboration with Basil Hall & Printers 1997-2007 ANU, Canberra, ACT
2008	25th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Galleries of the NT, Darwin, NT
2007	Bukulunthunmi - Coming Together, One Place, Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT
2007	Guluku Gallery, Festival of Darwin, NT
2007	Gapan Gallery, Gulkula, NT
2007	Mother and Daughter, Nongirna and Marnyula, Annadale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2006	Art d'Australie Galerie Seine 51, Paris, France
2006	Walking Together to Aid Aboriginal Health, Shalom College, NSW
2005	'Y kumirri', Holmes a Court Gallery, Perth, WA
2005	'Y kumirri', Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT (exhibition purchased by the Holmes a Court Collection)
2002-05	Tracking Cloth, various venues, Indonesia, Singapore, NSW, QLD, SA, VIC, Australian Embassy - Paris, France
2002	Marnyula, Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT
2001	Buku-Larrnggay Printmakers, Alcaston House Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2001	Buku-Larrnggay Printmakers, NT Universtiy, Darwin, NT



Short St. Gallery

2000	17th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Galleries of the NT, Darwin, NT
2000	Shell Fremantle Print Awards, Fremantle, WA
2000	Commissioned Bark Painting for 'Basic Needs Pavilion' World Expo, Hannover, Germany
2000	Ben Grady Gallery, Printmakers Tour Exhibition, Canberra, ACT
1999/2001	Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala - A National Tour, Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra, ACT and John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Perth, WA
1999	Buku-Larrngay Printmakers, Original Dreamtime Gallery, Alice Springs, NT
1999	Buku-Larrngay Printmakers, Alcaston House Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
1998	Buku-Larrngay Printmakers, NT Universtiy, Darwin, NT
1997	14th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Galleries of the NT, Darwin, NT
1996	13th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Galleries of the NT, Darwin, NT
1995	Miny'tji Buku-Larrngay, Paintings from the East, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
1994	11th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Galleries of the NT, Darwin, NT
1994	Tyerabarrowaryaou II (I shall Never Become a Whiteman), 5th Havana Biennial, Cuba and Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, NSW
1994	Don't Leave Me This Way, Art in the Age of AIDS, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, ACT
1990	Yirrkala Show, Framed Gallery, Darwin, NT
1989	Masterpiece Fine Art Gallery, Hobart, TAS

Collections

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
Artbank, Sydney NSW
Australian Museum, Sydney NSW
Charles Darwin University Art Collection
Debra and Dennis Scholl Collection
Flinders University Art Museum, Adelaide SA
Holmes a Court Collection
JW Kluge Collection, Virginia USA
Kerry Stokes Larrakitj Collection, WA
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT



Short St. Gallery

National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney NSW
National Museum of Australia, Canberra ACT
RMIT University Art Collection
Singapore Art Gallery
Sydney Opera House, Sydney NSW
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery
University of Wollongong

Bibliography

2017	ARTKELCH – Robyn Kelch: Buku-Larrnggay Mulka, Exhibition catalogue, Freiburg, Germany
2010	Catalogue: 17th Biennale of Sydney - The Beauty of Distance, Songs of Survival, in a Precarious Age. ISBN 978 0 64652 794 9
2010	Djalkiri - We are Standing on Their Names. Catalogue Nomad Art Productions
1994	Dont Leave Me This Way - Art in the Age of AIDS, National Gallery of Australia
2008	Etched in the Sun: Prints Made by Indigenous Artists in Collaboration with Basil Hall and Printers 1997-2007, ANU Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra
2000	Land Mark : Mirror Mark, published by Northern Edition Printmakers, NT University pp 18-22
2009	Making it New: Focus on Contemporary Australian Art, published by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney NSW
2002	Marmyula exhibition pamphlet RAFT
1999	Saltwater - Yirrkala Bark Paintings of Sea Country. Buku-Larrnggay Mulka in association with Jennifer Isaacs Publishing, Sydney, 1999 ISBN 0 646 37702 7
2004	Sothebys Catalogue
2002	Tracking Cloth - exhibition catalogue Wollongong University
1994	Tyerabarrbowaryaou II: I Shall Never Become a White Man. Museum of Contemporary Art. ISBN 1 875632 22 0

Awards

2020	Best Bark Prize at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
2002	Honourable Mention, Michael Long Testimonial Art Award.
1994	Best Painting, Barunga Festival Art Awards.



Short St. Gallery

Commissions

2000

Commissioned bark painting for 'Basic Needs Pavilion' World Expo,
Hannover, Germany