



# Short St. Gallery



## Djirrirra Wununmurra

**Born** 1968  
**Region** Anhem Land

### Biography

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 Anhem Land, in a show at Ra 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 St 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



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this year she again visited the US as part of a print collaboration between the Yirkala 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

- 2018 Yukuwa - Renewal - Provenance Arts, Darwin NT
- 2013 Djirirra Wunungmurra Yukuwa - Vivien Anderson Gallery, VIC
- 2012 Djirirra Wunungmurra: I am Yukuwa - Vivien Anderson Gallery, VIC
- 2011 Rite of Spring / Rrarrandharr Malaluba solo show - Cross Art Projects Sydney

## Group Exhibitions

- 2021 Northern Waters – Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2020 Paris, Paris! - ARTKELCH, Freiburg i. Br., German
- 2020 The Magic of Black and White - ARTKELCH Museum KUNSTWERK, Eberdingen-Nussdorf Stuttgart, Germany
- 2020 Art Paris 2020, - ARTKELCH @ Art Paris 2020, Paris, France
- 2020 Smart Art - ARTKELCH, Freiburg i. Br., Germany
- 2019 Tarnanthi 2019 - Art Gallery of South Australia
- 2019 Rendezvous - ARTKELCH Freiburg i. Br., Germany
- 2019 Sydney Contemporary 2019 - Carriageworks, Sydney
- 2019 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Whitlam Institute Gallery UWS NSW
- 2019 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Cowra Regional Art Gallery, Cowra NSW
- 2019 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong NSW
- 2019 Unison- Gängän paintings from Djirirra Wunungmurra and Naypirri Gumana - Suzanne OConnell Gallery, QLD
- 2019 First Ladies - Vivien Anderson Gallery, VIC
- 2018 Balnhdhurr - 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



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- 2018 Fecund: Fertile Worlds - Nyinkka Nyunyu Cultural Centre, Tennant Creek NT
- 2018 Fecund: Fertile Worlds - Godinymayin 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 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
- 2017 34<sup>th</sup> NATIAA Finalist, MAGNT, Darwin, NT
- 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 Patteration - Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, Gymea 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 Yukuwa ga Ganguri: Bark Paintings, Larrakitj and Banumbirr - Vivien Anderson Gallery, VIC
- 2014 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Gama Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
- 2013 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Gama Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
- 2013 FOUND - Annandale Galleries, Sydney NSW



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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  
2010 Indigenous Art of the Northern Territory, from north east Arnhem Land to the Western Desert - Chunshen Cultural Square, Shanghai, China  
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 Miyak - 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 'Returning to Djakapurra' - A Collection of Poles and Barks from Yirrkala - Redot Gallery, Singapore  
2010 Djirirra and Dhuwarwarr, 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 Djirirra - 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 'Yäkumiri' - Raft Artspace, Darwin NT

## Collections



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Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney NSW  
Kerry Stokes Collection, Perth WA  
Levi and Kaplan Collection, Seattle USA  
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT  
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT  
Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane QLD  
The Lavery Collection, Sydney NSW  
TOGA Group Companies Art Collection  
Woodside Energy Ltd. Art Collection

## **Bibliography**

2020 ARTKELCH – Robyn Kelch: Black || White, exhibition catalogue, Freiburg, Germany

2013 Annandale Galleries Catalogue: Found -  
[http://www.annandalegalleries.com.au/images/Catalogue\\_LR.pdf](http://www.annandalegalleries.com.au/images/Catalogue_LR.pdf)

2010 Catalogue: 17th Biennale of Sydney - The Beauty of Distance, Songs of Survival, in a Precarious Age. ISBN 978 0 64652 794 9

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

## **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