



Short St. Gallery



Mildred Minggi Mungulu

Born 1957
Region West Kimberley
Language Worrora, Wunambal

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.



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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 in the bush and are gone, it's her."*

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Mildred spent many years working at Kimberley Health and has a partially completed qualification in Community Health undertaken at Curtin University.

Mildred is traditionally a painter, but currently she is exploring etching as a new medium.

Group Exhibitions

2024	Mowanjum Wandjina's, Hobart, Tasmania
2024	Revealed, Fremantle Art Centre, Fremantle, WA
2023	Prints Taranthi Online
2023	Prints Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
2022	Paintings, Taranthi
2022	Painting, Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
2021	Paintings, Taranthi
2021	Painting, Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair
2017	Derby Christmas Markets
2017	Sydney Opera House Sydney Homeground Markets
2017	Taranthi Art Fair (Adelaide, South Australia)
2017	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



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2009	Mowanjum Festival – Mowanjum Art and Culture Centre, Derby
2008	Shinju Matsuri Wandjina Budda Budding – Broome 6 Gallery
2008	Mowanjum Festival – Mowanjum Art Centre
2008	Cultural Connections - Arittja 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
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

Commissions

2000	Sydney Olympics Opening Ceremony – Large Scale Sculpture
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