



Short St. Gallery

Don Namundja

Birth Year 1954
Language Group Kunwinjku
Region Gunbalanya, Western Arnhem Land



Biography

Don is one of Western Arnhem Land's most senior and respected artists. Don fondly remembers painting in the stone country with some of its most recognized artists including Bardayal 'Lofty' Nadjamerrek and Kalariya 'Jimmy' Namanyilk.

Don had his first solo exhibition in 2004. Nicholas Rothwell wrote in the Australian, "By any standards this debut exhibition is worthy of sustained attention in the national media." The freshness of Don's paintings prompted the National Gallery of Australia to acquire two works from the RAFT Artspace in Darwin. He was selected for the prestigious National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards in Darwin in 2003, 2005, 2006 and more recently in 2014.

Don lives in Gunbanya (Oenpelli) in Western Arnhem Land and can often be found painting under the verandah at Injalak Arts.

Solo Exhibitions

2019 'Don Namundja', Provenance Arts, Darwin

2004 'Don Nakadiilinj Namundja', Raft Artspace, Darwin NT

Group Exhibitions

2021 'Northern Waters Short St Gallery, Broome, WA

2020 'Kabimdi : There Are Painting There That Have Always Been There', Short St Gallery, Broome



Short St. Gallery

2020 'The Inside World: Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Memorial Poles', Fralin Museum, University of Virginia

2020 'The Alice Prize 2020', Araluen Cultural Precinct, Alice Springs

2020 'MunguyhMunguyh (Forever): CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JOHN W. KLUGE INJALAK COMMISSION', The Rotunda, University of Virginia

2018 'Manme Manmak ', Good Food! Ngundibukkan Manme Bim Come and look at this artwork about food We invite you to Central Craft's June Marriott Gallery to enjoy a feast of creativity from Injalak Arts. The exhibition features paintings on paper by Willie Nabalwad and Gabriel Maralngurra. You can also sample a delicious range of woven pandanus fibre works and hand screen printed fabrics. Willie and Gabriel gather artistic inspiration from edible aspects of nature in West Arnhem Land. Willie's beautifully executed paintings of native plants arise out of a life spent closely observing the natural world. Willie worked as a ranger in the Stone Country before he became an artist at Injalak. As a Warddeken Ranger, Willie developed a deep understanding of the natural rhythms of West Arnhem Land flora. Gabriel Maralngurra is one of Injalak Art's co-founders and also one of the Art Centre's Co-directors. Gabriel began his artistic career as a screenprinter. Later, Gabriel was taught to paint by Thompson Yulidjiri and his father in law, Lofty Nadjamerrek Bardayal. In turn, Gabriel is a generous teacher to the younger artists who continue to paint in the West Arnhem tradition. Willie and Gabriel's palette is comprised of traditional red, yellow and white ochre colours used in West Arnhem Land art over 65,000 years. The earthy tones of ochres contrast with the bright colours of fabric hand- screenprinted at Injalak Arts and woven works made with naturally dyed pandanus. When seen together, the works presented offer an insight into the culture of West Arnhem Land, a verdant country filled with manme manmak in Northern Australia.

2017 'Mayhmayh -Different Birds', Works on paper, bark Nomad Art Gallery, Darwin

2017 '34th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA)', Darwin, Northern Territory

2017 'Salon Des Refuses', Charles Darwin University, Darwin

2017 '34th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (NATSIAA)', Darwin, Northern Territory

2017 'Get it On 2017', Aboriginal Bush Traders, Darwin

2016 'Kunwinkju Counting Book Exhibition and Launch', Nomad Art Gallery, Darwin

2016. 'Salon Des Refuses', Charles Darwin University, Darwin

2016 'Interiors-Fabric panels', Framed the Darwin Gallery

2016 '32nd National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards', Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory

2016 '12th Festival of Pacific Art - Group Exhibition', Guam Museum, Guam

2016 'Wearables Festival del Caribe Santiago de Cuba', Santiago de Cuba

2015 'Dolobbo Injalak bark exhibition', Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Gabriella Roy

2015 'Salon Des Refuses', Darwin Waterfront, Darwin

2015 '31st National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Awards', Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Darwin

2015 'Wearables', Tactile Arts Gallery, Darwin



Short St. Gallery

- 2015 'Wearables', Tactile Arts Gallery, Darwin
- 2015 'Manme Mayh: Gardens of the Stone Country III', Nomad Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2015 'Dolobbo: Contemporary Bark Paintings from Injalak Arts', Aboriginal & Pacific Art, Sydney
- 2015 '31st National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Awards', Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Darwin
- 2014 '31st National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award', Finalist, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
- 2013 'Wurrkabal', Netanya Resort, Noosa QLD
- 2013 'Injalak Arts Exhibition', Better World Arts, Port Adelaide
- 2012 'Manme Mayh: Gardens of the Stone Country', Nomad Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2011 'Graham Badari & Gershon Garlingarr AWARDS',
- 2010 'First solo exhibition', Mossenson Perth
- 2010 'Darwin Smith St Public Art project Kuluban installation',
- 2009 'Single Line A Continuing Tradition', Mossenson Galleries, Melbourne
- 2009 'Menagerie', Object Gallery and Australia Museum
- 2009 'Ochre and Rust', Indigenart Gallery, Perth
- 2008 '25th National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Awards', Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 2008 'National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards', Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
- 2008 'Sex, Spirits & Sorcery', Mossenson Galleries, Melbourne
- 2008 'Finalist 25th National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Awards', Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Darwin
- 2007 'Lines & Ochre ', Ochre Gallery Melbourne
- 2007 'Ochre Paintings from Western Arnhem Land', Batchelor Institute Coomalie NT
- 2007 'Continuity, Country and Culture: Three Generations',
- 2007 'The Injalak Hill Suite', Aboriginal & Pacific Art Gallery, Danks St Sydney
- 2007 'Ngadiriwilkne To Make A Mark', Port Jackson Press Melbourne
- 2006 'Finalist, 24th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards', Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Darwin
- 2006 '2nd Peter Baillie Acquisitive Award', Flinders University, Adelaide
- 2006 'National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards', Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
- 2006 'Paper, Bark, Canvas & Twine', Dickerson Gallery, Melbourne
- 2006 'Wet and Dry', Indigenart Gallery, Perth WA
- 2006 '24th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award ', MAGNT, Darwin NT
- 2006 'Contact', Solo Exhibition, Mossenson Galleries, Melbourne
- 2006 'The Second Peter Baillie Acquisitive Award', Flinders University, Adelaide SA
- 2006 'Inspired by Injalak', Port Jackson Press Melbourne
- 2005 'The Art of Two Brothers', Cross Art Projects, Sydney NSW
- 2005 'Concord', Framed Gallery, Darwin



Short St. Gallery

- 2005 'Art of the Stone Country', Entertainment Centre, Darwin
- 2005 'National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards', Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
- 2004 'The Waterhouse Prize ', Museum of South Australia, Adelaide SA
- 2003 'Art Mob Exhibition Tasmania',
- 2004 '21st Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award',
- 2003 '20th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award',
- 2001 'Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award',
- 1998 Desert Designs Japingka Gallery, Perth WA
- 1996 Framed Gallery, Darwin NT
- 1995 'The Twelfth National Aboriginal Art Award Exhibition, ', Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory Darwin
- 1995 '21st Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award',
- 1995 Savode Gallery, Brisbane
- 1994 Aboriginal & Tribal Art Gallery The Rocks Sydney NSW
- 1994 Indigenart, Perth
- 1994 Aboriginal & Tribal Art Gallery, The Rocks, Sydney
- 1993 'Hogarth Aboriginal and Tribal Art Gallery'
- 1993 Helsinki and Rovaniemi Art Museum Lappland, Finland
- 1993 Burukmari Gallery, Fremantle WA
- 1993 Hogarth Aboriginal and Tribal Art Gallery, The Rocks, Sydney
- 1993 Editions, Southbank, Melbourne
- 1993 'Stories', Contemporary Australian Aboriginal Art Kerava Art

Commissions

- 2020 Finalist The Alice Prize: Contemporary Art Award
- 2016 Finalist, Works on Bark category National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2015 Finalist, Works on Paper category National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2010 The Darwin City Council placed Graham Bardari's Fruit Bats" sculpture into Smith st Mall as part of the 2010 My City Revitalization Project in Darwin in 2010
- 2009 The Northern Territory Government commissioned four artists including Gramham Bardari for large scale etched copper panels, installed as part of the Smith St East Walkway Public Art Project
- 2007 Selected to develop the indigenous design for promotion of the world heritage listed Kakadu National Park Awards
- 2012 Finalist Works on Paper category Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2011 Finalist, Work on Bark category, National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2010 Works on Bark category National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Award



Short St. Gallery

- 2010 Telstra Art Awards- Highly Commended for his artwork Wurdwurd (children) Kudjekbinj Dreaming Story
- 2009 August 2009 Finalist, 26th National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Awards Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Darwin
- 2009 Finalist, Togart Contemporary Art Award (acquired)
- 2009 Winner, Works on Paper category National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2008 August 2008 Finalist 25th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Darwin
- 2008 2008 Finalist Highly Commended and Acquired National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2008 November 2008; Highly Commended, The Age Melbourne Fringe Festival 2007
- 2007 Finalist National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2006 2006 Wilin Centre Award - for Outstanding Indigenous Artist for his exhibition Making Contact
- 2006 August 2006; Finalist 24th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art

Awards

- 2020 2020 Finalist The Alice Prize: Contemporary Art Award
- 2016 2016 Finalist, Works on Bark category National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2015 2015 Finalist, Works on Paper category National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2012 2012 Finalist Works on Paper category Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Award
- 2011 2011 Finalist, Work on Bark category, National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Award
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Short St. Gallery

2006 August 2006; Finalist 24th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Darwin

Collections

Batchelor Institute, N.T.

Berndt Museum of Anthropology, University of Western Australia Dennis Scholl-USA

Dept. of Foreign Affairs, Canberra

Kluge Collection, Charlottesville, United States of America Museum and Art Gallery of the
Northern Territory,

Museum Australia

Museum Victoria, Melbourne Australia

Maitland Regional Gallery

National Gallery of Australia

Bibliography

2010 Carroll, Peter, Bark Art from Western Arnhem Land Northern Territory Anglican
Foundations

1993 Kunwinjku Seasonal Calendar, Injalak Arts & Crafts

2005 Louise Hamby, Twined Together: Kunmadj njalehnjaleken, Injalak Arts and Crafts
Association

2000 Wright, Felicity, The Art & Craft Centre Story: Volume Three - Good stories from out
bush, ATSIC