

Short St. Gallery

IVAN NAMIRRKKI

Born 1961
Region Markoliddjban

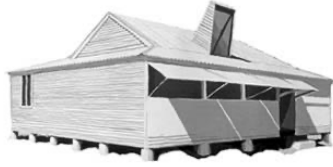
"We have been all around the world to exhibitions. I am the voice of this artists group and a strong man; a proud traditional owner who is happy to inform my peoples of our future in telling stories around the world. We are thinking about our history, always thinking as we are creating and learning, and my family put their stories on some bark and some rocks here in this country. For my kids and grandkids to learn and teach their kids and grandkids, I think this is really wonderful. This is really important to me and the people of this community, so that this story can keep me strong story, one that is passed on for future generations." - Ivan Namirrkki

Kuninjku artist Ivan Namirrkki was born in 1961. Namirrkki was taught to paint by his father Peter Marralwanga(1917–1987) - a renowned bark painter and political proponent of the maintenance of 'country'. Namirrkki was first taught to paint by his father in a figurative manner. The focus was stories like Kalawan and Namorrorddo for his Kardbam clan lands near Mankorlod although later Marralwanga also guided Namirrkki in the stories for other clans around Kumurru. He helped his father work on two exhibitions in Perth in 1981 and 1983 and travelled to Perth as part of the project.

To distinguish his own figurative works Namirrkki often used black paint as the background to the figures although, like his father, he also became adept at varying the pattern of in fill from rarrk to dotting to sections of full colour to create dynamic visual effects. In the late 1990s Namirrkki moved to paint geometric work in the Mardayin style. His style is very strongly symmetrical with evenly spaced bands of rarrk arrayed in concentric diamond forms. This diamond arrangement has become his signature and it features as the background of works that show the complex interconnections between waterholes in his country. He also contrasts this patterning with dotting and other variations of rarrk to indicate the power of the sites.

Occasionally Namirrkki will return to paint figurative images or combine them in more geometric images. Common themes in his work include the ngalyod (rainbow serpent), birmlu and djarlahdjarlah (barramundi), kalawan (goanna), komorlo (little egret), komrdawh (freshwater turtle), nadjinem (black wallaroo), nakidikidi (aharmful and nasty spirit), namorrorddo (a profane spirit), nayuhyungki bininj (ancient people), ngaldjalarrk (snake), ngalyod (rainbow serpent), ngurrurdu (emu), and yawkyawk (a female water spirit). He is also known for painting leech djang located at Yibalaydjyigod and maggot djang located at Yirok. Luke Taylor cites Namirrkki and his father's work, transferring this djang (or dreaming), as a political act, invoking a tangible aboriginal ontology in relation to land, life and the spiritual.

"The point of painting such work for the market is to expose viewers directly to the power of the Ancestral realm"... Namirrkki has spoken of his love for country particularly the soothing qualities of living adjacent to it's important waters. There is also a confidence and peace derived from living in one's heartland that flows to all activities conducted there. An understanding of the importance of



Short St. Gallery

country provides the context for more developed understanding of Kuniñku concepts of personhood, sociality, power, and health, as well as local constructions of other frameworks of human experience such as aesthetic experience."

Namirrkki began exhibiting his work in the early nineteen eighties and has been presented in numerous group and solo shows over the years, both in Australia and overseas. In 2006 he was a finalist in the National Gallery of Victoria's Clemenger Contemporary Art Prize. Namirrkki's art can be found in many collections including that of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, National Gallery of Victoria and the Art Gallery of South Australia. 1. Luke Taylor, Connections of Spirit: Kuniñku Attachments to Country, in Country, Native Title and Ecology, ed. Jessica K. Weir, pp. 21-46.

Solo Exhibitions

- 2009 Ivan Namirrkki - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
- 2007 Ivan Namirrkki - Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT
- 2002 Kardbam namurungi - Rarrk Designs from the Kardbam clan - Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney, NSW
- 1999 Ivan Namirrkki - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW

Group Exhibitions

- 2021 Northern Waters - Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2020 Tamanthi Art Fair - Lot Fourteen, Adelaide, SA
- 2020 RESILIENCE: The power of the past today - Maningrida - Aboriginal Signature Estrangin FineArt, Brussels, Belgium
- 2019 Rendezvous - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
- 2019 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair - Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin
- 2019 Art Karlsruhe 2019 - ARTKELCH @ art Karlsruhe 2019, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2018 Mardayin - Aboriginal Art von Maningrida Arts - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
- 2018 From Coast to Escarpment: Spirit Worlds of Maningrida - Michael Reid, Sydney, NSW
- 2018 Outstation - Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2017 Landscape as Knowledge - Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Sydney, NSW
- 2016 Bark + Ironwood - Charles Nodrum Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2015 Summer Sojourn - Art Atrium, Sydney, NSW
- 2015 Exploration of Bark - Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2014 Luminous World: Contemporary Art from the Wesfarmers Collection - Academy Gallery, University of Tasmania Gallery, TAS
- 2012 Maningrida Group Show - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
- 2011 Westfarmers Exhibition - Perth, Australia



Short St. Gallery

- 2011 The Dreaming Changes Shape - Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Australia
2010 Best of Maningrida - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
2010 Collection Highlights - Seva Frangos Art, Subiaco, Australia
2009 Ancestral Spirit Beings and Ceremonial Lorrkon - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
2009 Recent Works by Maningrida - William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
2009 26th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards Exhibition - Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
2008 Togart Contemporary Art Award - Togart, Northern Territory
2008 Togart Contemporary Art Award - Togart, Northern Territory
2008 Maningrida Arts - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2008 Melbourne Art Fair - Art Fair, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
2008 25th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards Exhibition - Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
2007 Spirit in Variation Part II - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2007 Maningrida group show - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2007 Lorrkon, Spirit Beings - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
2007 New Works - Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
2007 Spirit in Variation - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2007 Park - Bargehouse Gallery, London, UK
2006 Clemenger Contemporary Art Prize - National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
2007 Our Home - CDU Art Collection, CDU, Darwin, NT
2006 Lorrkons and Spirit Figures - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2006 Dream Tracks, Aboriginal art of Arnhem Land - La Fontaine Centre of Contemporary Art, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
2005 Bark paintings and carvings from Maningrida - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2005 22nd National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Arts Awards - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
2005 Park, flowing on from Crossing Country - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2005 Recent works from Maningrida - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
2004 Hollow Logs from Maningrida - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
2004 Bark paintings, carvings and fibre works from Maningrida - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2004 Maningrida Burial Poles - Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, UK
2004 Crossing Country: the alchemy of western Arnhem Land art - Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
2004 Maningrida Recent Works - William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
2003 The Visit - Annandale galleries, Sydney, NSW
2003 Mythological beings from Maningrida - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2003 RAKA award, Places that Name Us - The Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne VIC
2003 20th Telstra national Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT

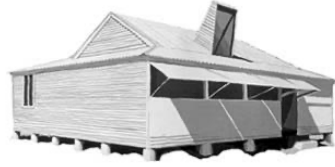


Short St. Gallery

- 2003 Out of the Wet - new art by Kuninjku artists - Framed gallery, Darwin, NT
2002 Kuninjku show, Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, UK
2002 19th Telstra National & Torres Strait Islander Art Award Exhibition - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
2002 East + West, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2002 Barks in the spotlight - Utrecht, The Netherlands
2001 18th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award Exhibition - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
2001 Outside in: Research Engagements with Arnhem Land Art - Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT
2001 Arnhem Land Carvings and Bark Paintings - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2001 In the Heart of Arnhem Land. Myth and the making of contemporary Aboriginal art - Muséedel l'Hôtel-Dieu, Mantes-la-Jolie, France
2000 Biennale Of Sydney 2000 - Biennale Of Sydney, various venues at various location, NSW
2000 Kuninjku Cosmology: recent works by Mick Kubarkku and his sons - Aboriginal & Pacific Arts, Sydney, NSW
2000 Aboriginal bark paintings, sculptures & hollow logs - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
1989 Kunwinjku - Deutscher Gertrude Street, Melbourne, VIC
1988 Gunwinggu Artists - Beaufort Convention Centre, Darwin, NT
1983 Artists of Arnhem Land - Canberra School of Arts, Canberra, ACT

Collections

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
Artbank, Sydney, NSW
Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, VIC
Charles Darwin University Art Collection
Djomi Museum, Maningrida, NT
Dr. Colin and Liz Lavery private collection, Sydney, NSW
Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
The Kaplan-Levi Collection, Private Collection, United States of America



Short St. Gallery