



Short St. Gallery

Wukun Wanambi

Born 1962
Region Gurka'wuy

Biography

Wukun's father, Mithili Wanambi, died before he was able to learn from him to any great degree. He began painting in 1997 as a result of the Saltwater project in which he participated. His arm of the Marrakulu clan is responsible for saltwater imagery which had not been painted intensively since his father's death in 1981. His caretakers, or Djunggayi, principally the late Yanggariny Wunungmurra (1932-2003), transferred their knowledge of these designs to Wukun so that the title to saltwater could be asserted. Some of these designs were outside even his father's public painting repertoire. Wukun's sisters Boliny and Ralwurrandji were active artists for a long time before this but not painting oceanic water of Marrakulu. Ralwurrandji was an employee at Buku-Larrnggay through the 1980's. Wukun sought education through Dhupuma College and Nhulunbuy High School and mainstream employment as a Sport and Recreation Officer, Probation and Parole Officer and at the local mine. He has five children with his wife Warraynga who is also an artist and is now a grandfather. It was not until 2007 that their younger brother Yalanba began to paint. Wukun's first bark for this Saltwater project won the 1998 NATSIAA Best Bark award. Wukun has gone on to establish a high profile career. In 2003 NATSIAA awards, a sculptured larrakitj by Wukun was Highly Commended in 3D category. Since then he has been included in many prestigious collections. He had his first solo show at Raft Artspace in Darwin in 2004 followed by solo shows at Niagara Galleries, Melbourne in 2005 and 2008. Wukun has been involved heavily in all the major communal projects of this decade including the Sydney Opera House commission, the opening of the National Museum of Australia, the Wukidi ceremony in the Darwin Supreme Court and the films: Lonely Boy Richard, The Pilot's Funeral and Dhakiyarr versus The King. Wukun is an active community member in recreation and health projects and supports a large family. In 2008 he was commissioned to provide a design for installation on a seven-storey glass façade in the Darwin Waterfront Development. He became a Director of Buku-Larrnggay's media centre, The Mulka Project in 2007. In this role he facilitates media projects such as the Nhama DVD and mentors young Yolngu in accessing training and employment in the media centre. He is often required to travel within Australia and overseas to present films, participate in festivals, academic conferences, collaborations and exhibitions. His work is in The British Museum. He won the 3D prize in NATSIAA in 2010 and 2018.



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Solo Exhibitions

- 2016 Wukun Wanambi - Trial Bay - Hanging Valley, Second Space Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2016 Wukun Wanambi Trial Bay Gurkawuy - Redot Gallery, Singapore
- 2008 Wukun Wanambi - Niagara Galleries, Richmond, VIC
- 2005 Wukun Wanambi - Niagara Galleries, Melbourne, VIC

Group Exhibitions

2021. Northern Waters – Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2021 art Karlsruhe 2021 - ARTKELCH @ art Karlsruhe 2021, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2019 Water - QAGOMA
- 2019 Gurrutu - Tamaranthi 2019 - Art Gallery of South Australia
2019. Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Whittam Institute Gallery UWS NSW
2019. Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Cowra Regional Art Gallery, Cowra NSW
2019. Top End Ochre - Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula VIC
- 2019 unbranded - La Trobe Art Institute
2019. Wanambi – Aboriginal and Pacific Art, Sydney NSW
- 2019 NIRIN – 22nd Biennale of Sydney, Art Gallery of NSW
- 2019 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition – Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong NSW
- 2019 The Inside World - Contemporary Aboriginal Australian Memorial poles, Touring Exhibition – United States of America
2019. art Karlsruhe 2019 - ARTKELCH @ art Karlsruhe 2019, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2018 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition – Warwick Art Gallery, Warwick, QLD
- 2018 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition – Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, Caboolture, QLD
- 2018 Minytji - Essence of the Land - Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Gallery, Bruxelles, Belgium.
- 2018 Gapan Gallery 2018 - Gapan Gallery, Gama Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land, NT
- 2018 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition – Griffith Regional Art Gallery, Griffith NSW
- 2018 Ngura Ninti – Knowing Country - ARTKELCH, Freiburg i. Br., Germany
- 2017 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition – Tasmanian Museum And Art Gallery, Hobart TAS
- 2017 Wüste – Meer – Schöpfermythen - ARTKELCH Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum Cologne, Germany



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- 2017 Buku-Larmggay - Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum, Cologne, Germany
2017 Gapu-Monuk: Saltwater Journey to Sea Country - National Australian Maritime
2017. Earth Matters – Aboriginal artwork from the Kimberley and Arnhem Land
- FORM, The Goods Shed, Perth WA
2017 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition – Castlemaine State
Festival, Castlemaine Market Building, VIC
2017 Wynne Prize 2017 – Art Gallery of New South Wales
2017 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition – University of
Newcastle, Newcastle NSW
2017 Mulka - ARTKELCH Collectors Lounge @ kptec, Schorndorf Germany
2017. Buku-Larmggay Mulka - ARTKELCH Karlsruhe Germany
2017 Buku-Larmggay - ARTKELCH Freiberg im Breisgau, Germany
2017 Mulka - ARTKELCH Collectors Lounge @ kptec, Schorndorf Germany
2016. Tradition & Innovation - Paris Parcours des Mondes 2016 - Aboriginal
Signature Estrangin Gallery
2016 Endless Circulation, TarraWarra Biennial 2016 - Tarrawarra Museum of Art,
VIC
2016 32nd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum &
Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
2016 Gilatj – new work on glass from Buku Larmggay Mulka - Outstation - Art from
Art Centres, Darwin NT
2016 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression – Chalres Darwin University Gallery, Darwin
NT
2015 Unsettled - National Museum of Australia, Canberra ACT
2015 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression – Tamaranthi 2015 - Adelaide College of the
Arts, Adelaide SA
2015 Yirrkala Mob, Bangarra Boards - RAFT Art Space, Alice Springs NT
2015 Revolution: New work celebrating 20 years of printmaking at Yirrkala Print
Space. - Nomad Art, Darwin
2015 31st Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum &
Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
2015 Buku-Larmggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Gama
Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land, NT
2015 Enduring Civilisations - British Museum, London UK
2014 Buku-Larmggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Gama
Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land, NT
2013 Buku-Larmggay Mulka – Printmakers Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Gama
Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land, NT
2013 FOUND – Annandale Galleries, NSW
2013 Finalist – Western Australian Art Awards – Art Gallery of Western Australia, WA
2013 Prized – Nomad Art, Darwin, NT
2012 Three – Chan Contemporary Art Space, Darwin NT
2011 28th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum &



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- 2011 Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
2011 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka – Printmakers Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land, NT
- 2011 One Clan, Three Hands - Niagara Galleries, Melbourne Niagara Galleries, Melbourne VIC
- 2011 27th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
- 2010 17th Biennale of Sydney - Larrakitj, the Kerry Stokes Collection - Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney NSW
- 2010 The White Show – Short St Gallery, Broome WA
- 2010 Returning to Djakapurra – A collection of Poles and Barks from Yirkala - Red Dot Gallery, SINGAPORE
- 2008 Galuku Gallery (Nomad Art Productions) - Darwin Festival, Darwin Botanical Gardens, NT
- 2008** Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Print Space - After Bernt Etchings at Print Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Festival of Darwin NT
- 2008 Yarpany - Honey: Art of the Marrakulu Clan - Framed Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2008 Outside Inside - Bark and Hollow Logs from Yirkala - Bett Gallery Hobart, TAS
- 2007 Bukulungthunmi - Coming Together, One Place - Raft Artspace, Darwin NT
- 2007 Galuku Gallery (Nomad Art Productions) - Darwin Festival, Darwin Botanical Gardens, NT
- 2007 Togart NT Contemporary Art Awards - Winner Peoples Choice - Chan Contemporary Art Space, Darwin NT
- 2006 23rd National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
- 2006 'Walking together to aid Aboriginal Health' - Shalom College, University of New South Wales, Sydney NSW
- 2006 Arnhem Land Ochres - Mina Mina Art Gallery Brunswick Heads, NSW
- 2006 'Bulayi- Small Gems' - Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, Brisbane QLD
- 2005 'Yâkumirri' - Holmes a Court Gallery , Perth
- 2005 22nd National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
- 2005 'Yâkumirri' (purchased by Holmes a Court Collection) - Raft Artspace, Darwin NT
- 2005 Celebrating 25 Years of Australian Art - touring exhibition - 9 regional galleries from Cairns to Bathurst
- 2004 Wukun Wanambi (First Solo Show) - Raft Artspace, Darwin NT
- 2003 20th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
- 2003 Brighton International Art Festival - Brighton, UK
- 2003 Larrakitj - Rebecca Hossack Gallery
- 2002 19th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
- 2001 18th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
- 2001 New from Old- Gawirrin, Ya?garriny, Dula, Wanyubi, Wukun - Annandale Galleries, Sydney NSW
- 2000 'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirkala' - A National Tour - John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Perth WA



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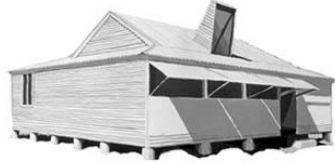
- 1999 'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala' - A National Tour - Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane QLD
- 1999 'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala' - A National Tour - Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs NT
- 1999 'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala' - A National Tour - Museum of Modern Art at Heide, Melbourne VIC
- 1999 'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala' - A National Tour - The National Maritime Museum, Sydney NSW
- 1999 'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala' - A National Tour - Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra ACT

Collections

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney NSW
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA
Artbank, Sydney NSW
Charles Darwin University Art Collection
Fondation Opale, Switzerland
Holmes a Court Collection, Perth WA
Kerry Stokes Collection, Perth WA
Manly Regional Gallery, Manly NSW
Musee de Lyon, Lyon France
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
Museum Five Continents, Munich
Museum Fünf Kontinente in Munich, Germany,
Museum Kunstwerk, Germany
Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney NSW
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT
National Maritime Museum, Saltwater Collection.
Darling Harbour, Sydney NSW
Northern Territory Supreme Court Art Collection, Darwin NT
Sammlung Klein, Eberdingen-Nussdorf, Germany
The Lavery Collection, Sydney NSW

Bibliography

- 2013 Annandale Galleries Catalogue: Found <http://www.annandalegalleries.com.au/i>
- 2017 ARTKELCH – Robyn Kelch: Buku-Larrnggay Mulka, Exhibition catalogue, Freiburg, Germany
- 2017 ARTKELCH – Robyn Kelch: Wüste – Meer – Schöpfermythen, Exhibition catalogue, Freiburg, Germany
- 2019 Tamaranthi 2019 catalogue, Art Gallery of South Australia
- 2018 The Inside World- Contemporary Aboriginal Memorial Poles Awards
- 2018 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Darwin NT - Winner - Wandjuk Marika 3D Award
- 2010 Telstra NATSIAA - Winner Wandjuk Marika 3D Award
- 2007 TOGA, NT Contemporary Art Award exhibition - Winner, Peoples Choice Award
- 2007 Alcan - limited edition platter Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre - Wukun Wanambi
- 2006 TOGA, NT Contemporary Art Award exhibition - selected finalist
- 2003 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Darwin NT - Highly Commended (3D work)



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1998

Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Darwin NT - Winner Best Bark Painting Commissions