



Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre
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Artist Biography

Artist: Naminapu Maymuru-White
Date of Birth: 19/07/1952
Homeland: Djarrakpi
Clan: Mangalili, Belan group
Moiety: Yirritja



Naminapu's major interest is her art. She is an extremely versatile artist with skills in the areas of painting, carving, screen-printing, weaving, lino-cuts and batik work. As a child she used to sit for hours patiently watching her father paint. At about the age of 12, she began to learn herself, and was fortunate in being taught by her father's brother, Narritjin Maymuru, as well as by her own father, Nanyin Maymuru. Both men were extremely able and well-known artists, whose works hang in many Australian and overseas museums. As one of the first Yolŋu women to be taught to paint miny'tji (sacred creation clan designs) she was part of the historic adaptations by the elders of the Yolŋu in the last forty years which included the revelation of previously restricted designs in pursuit of justice in the Land Rights struggle (for example The Bark Petition and The Yirrkala Church Panels).

Naminapu Maymuru was born a member of the Mangalili clan, at the Yirrkala mission station in Northeast Arnhem Land in Northern Australia in 1952. After attending the mission school, she worked for some time in the store and craft shop and also helped out in the local bank. When the Homeland Centre of Gurka'wuy was established in 1973, Naminapu went to live there with her husband and young family of three children. These were the early days of the Homeland Movement, which included the establishment by Narritjin of the Mangalili homeland of Djarrakpi (extensively documented by Ian Dunlop of Film Australia in the twenty two films of the Yirrkala Film Project). During the years she spent there, Naminapu worked as a teacher trainee and later, on her return to Yirrkala, completed her teacher training. When she later married Leon White, a teacher in the Northern Territory, Naminapu went to live for several years in Melbourne and Darwin.

She has travelled within Australia quite extensively as well as to Japan. In 1985, Naminapu returned with her husband and family to live in Yirrkala, now no longer a mission station but a locally governed Aboriginal community. Following her return, she taught art to the children at the local school and then began working at the Craft Shop attached to the Buku-Larrnggay Arts Centre. In 1990, she was appointed Curator of the recently established Art Museum attached to this Centre, a position that she held until 1996.

Naminapu's works were exhibited very successfully with those of Bandak Marika, another Yirrkala woman artist, at a 'dual' exhibition held in Warnambool and Sydney, in 1990. Her works are also frequently included in combined exhibitions in Australia and overseas and she is now herself represented in most major institutional collections in the country. In August 1996 at the 13th Telstra National Aboriginal and Islander Art Awards her limited edition linoprint triptych "Nyapilingu" was chosen as the 'Best Work on Paper'. In 1998 she was selected as the National Indigenous Heritage Art Award Joint Runner-up Normandy Art Award (for her bark "Mangalili") One of her memorial poles with the Milŋiyawuy or milky way design won the Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D award at the 2005 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards.

Solo Exhibitions

2019 River of a Stars - Naminapu Maymuru-White - Salon Indigenous Art Projects Darwin NT

Group Exhibitions

- 2020** Approximately Infinite Universe - Naminapu Maymuru-White & Galuma Maymuru - Cross Art Projects Sydney
- 2019** Tarnanthi 2019 - Art Gallery of South Australia
- 2019** Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Whitlam Institute Gallery UWS NSW
- 2019** Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Cowra Regional Art Gallery, Cowra NSW
- 2019** Top End Ochre - Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula VIC
- 2019** Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong NSW
- 2018** Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Warwick Art Gallery, Warwick QLD
- 2018** Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, Caboolture, QLD
- 2018** Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Griffith Regional Art Gallery, Griffith NSW
- 2017** Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Tasmanian Museum And Art Gallery, Hobart TAS
- 2017** Notions of Country Bark: Paintings & Ceremonial Poles - Annandale Galleries
- 2017** Gapu-Monuk: Saltwater Journey to Sea Country - National Australian Maritime Museum
- 2017** Earth Matters: Aboriginal artwork from the Kimberley and Arnhem Land - FORM - The Goods Shed, Perth WA
- 2017** Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Bayside Arts and Cultural Centre Gallery, Brighton Victoria.
- 2017** Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Castlemaine State Festival, Castlemaine Market Building VIC
- 2017** Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - University of Newcastle Gallery, Newcastle NSW
- 2017** Legends and Lore - Artitja Fine Art, Perth WA
- 2016** Balnnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Charles Darwin University Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2016** Aboriginal Signature - Aboriginal Signature Gallery Brussels, Belgium
- 2015** Balnnhdhurr: A Lasting Impression – Tarnanthi 2015 - Adelaide College of the Arts, Adelaide SA
- 2015** Mother to Daughter: On Art and Caring for Homelands - The Cross Art Projects, Sydney NSW
- 2015** The Cross Art Projects foregrounds contemporary work and curatorial projects that reflect the multiple relationships between art and life, art and the public sphere, and explores the boundaries of th - The Cross Art Projects, Sydney NSW
- 2015** Lumggurma - Brumby Ute Aspen, Colorado USA
- 2014** Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
- 2013** Yirrkala, After Berndt, 1947–2013 - The Cross Art Projects, Sydney NSW
- 2013** Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
- 2012** Five Miyalk, Five Women - Harvey Arts Projects, Sun Valley USA
- 2011** Barrku! Treasures from a Distant Land - Harvey Art Projects, Sun Valley, Idaho USA
- 2011** Miyalk - Women, Feminine Art from Yirrkala - Framed Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2010** 17th Biennale of Sydney - Larrakitj, the Kerry Stokes Collection - Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney NSW
- 2009** 'After Berndt - Etchings from the Drawings - Mossenson Gallery, Perth, WA
- 2009** Starry Starry Night - Framed Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2008** Etched in the Sun, Prints made by Indigenous artists in collaboration with Basil Hall & Printers - Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra ACT
- 2008** Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Bernt Etchings - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
- 2008** Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Print Space - After Bernt Etchings at Print Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Festival of Darwin NT
- 2008** Outside Inside - Bark and Hollow Logs from Yirrkala - Bett Gallery Hobart, TAS
- 2008** 'SAME ONLY DIFFERENT' - Mogo raw Art and Blues, Mogo, NSW
- 2007** Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Japanese woodblock - Galuku Gallery, Darwin Festival Print Exhibition, Botanical gardens, Darwin NT

- 2007** Mil?iyawuy - Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
- 2006** 'Walking together to aid Aboriginal Health' - Shalom College, University of New South Wales, Sydney NSW
- 2006** Right Here, Right Now: recent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander acquisitions' - National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT
- 2006** 'Bulayi- Small Gems' - Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, Brisbane QLD
- 2006** Nami - Bandigan Gallery, Sydney NSW
- 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** New Work - Alison Kelly Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 2004** Mil?iyawuy/Milky Way (first solo show) - Framed Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2003** Brighton International Art Festival - Brighton, UK
- 2003** Larrakitj - Rebecca Hossack Gallery
- 2001** New from Old- Gawirrin, Ya?garriny, Dula, Wanyubi, Wukun - Annandale Galleries, Sydney NSW
- 2000** 17th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
- 2000** 'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala' - A National Tour - John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Perth WA
- 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
- 1998** Buku-Larrnggay Printmakers Exhibition - Northern Territory University, Darwin NT
- 1998** The Fourth National Indigenous Heritage Art Award (Joint runner-up Normany Heritage Art Prize) - Old Parliament House, Canberra, ACT
- 1997** Native Title - Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- 1996** 13th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award (Winner - best work on paper) - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
- 1995** 12th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
- 1995** Miny'tji Buku-Larrnggay, Paintings from the East - National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne VIC
- 1994** The 11th National Aboriginal Art Awards Exhibition - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
- 1993** Namiyal Bopirri, Naminapu White - Australian Girls Own Gallery, Canberra, ACT
- 1992** New Tracks Old Land: An Exhibition of Contemporary Prints from Aboriginal Australia, touring USA and Australia -
- 1990** 7th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
- 1989** Paintings and Sculptures from Yirrkala, North East Arnhem Land - Lyttleton Gallery, Melbourne VIC
- 1984** 1st National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT

Mediums

Print Making

Earth pigments on Stringybark

Earth pigments on Wood

Mediums

Earth pigments & sand on Stringybark hollow pole

Collections

Wesfarmers Collection

Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney NSW

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne VIC

Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane QLD

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT

Australian National Maritime Museum

Artbank, Sydney NSW

Kerry Stokes Larrakitj Collection, WA

The Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia. USA

Bibliography

2012 Five Miyalk, Five Women. Harvey Art Projects exhibition catalogue
<https://issuu.com/harveyartprojects.com/docs/miyalk>

Awards

2005 22nd National Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander art awards Wandjuk Marika Memorial
3D category

1996 13th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander art award Winner of Works on Paper

Commissions

2016 Public Art Commission for Casuarina Development, Darwin