

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Naminapu Maymuru-White



Date of Birth: 19/07/1952

Homeland: Djarrakpi

Clan: Mangalili, Belarj group

Moiety: Yirritja

Born in 1952, 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

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

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.

Exhibitions

2022 Bark Ladies: Eleven Artists from Yirrkala, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
2022 Milŋiyawuy – The River of Heaven and Earth, Sullivan and Strumpf, Sydney, NSW
2021 Winter Salon 2021, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
2020 Tarnanthi, Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA
2020 The Summer Collector's Show 2020, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC
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-Moŋuk: 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 - 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

EVERYWHEN ART

everywhenart.com.au

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

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 Nami - Bandigan Gallery, Sydney 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 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

Collections

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney NSW
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA
Artbank, Sydney NSW
Australian National Maritime Museum
Kerry Stokes Larrakitj Collection, WA
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne VIC
Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane QLD
Wesfarmers Collection

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

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Commissions

2016 Public Art Commission for Casuarina Development, Darwin

Publications

'Gong-Wapitja' by Gill Hutcherson AIATSIS 1998

'Djalkiri-Wa\`a' by Gill Hutcherson Berndt Museum 1995

'Buku-Larr\`gay Mulka Centre Print Catalogue' 1998 NTU

'Spirit in Land' by Judith Ryan National Gallery of Victoria 1990

'Saltwater, Yirrkala Bark Paintings of Sea Country', Buku-Larrnggay Mulka pp103 ISBN 064637702 7

"Lonely Boy Richard" Film Australia video 2003

Catalogue, 17th Biennale of Sydney, The Beauty of Distance, Songs of Survival, in a Precarious Age. ISBN 978 0 64652794 9