

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Mulkun Wirrpanda



Date of Birth: 22/05/1942
Clan: Dhudi-Djapu, Dha-malamirr
Homeland: Dhuruputjpi
Moiety: Dhuwa

Mulkun Wirrpanda is a senior female artist for the Dhudi-Djapu clan from Dhuruputjpi. She is a daughter of the late Dhakiyarr Wirrpanda and widow to Wakuthi Marawili, a Maḍarrpa clan leader who lived at Yilpara until his death in mid-2005. She is also mother (by kinship) to senior artist and clan leader Djambawa Marawili.

Mulkun paints Dhudi-Djapu miny'tji (sacred design) that depicts her land at Dhuruputjpi. As the eldest and most knowledgeable of her clan, she is acknowledged as a leader. Mulkun is one of the few Yolṅu women to have this status. Mulkun was an early practitioner of works without figurative imagery within the miny'tji (sacred clan design). Until recently the painting of this 'raw' miny'tji was restricted to ceremonial use. The work is always done using natural earth pigments (ochres). Yalata and Darrangi are areas she usually paints, which are at her clan estate Dhuruputjpi, where she resides. Mulkun paints on bark, larrakitj (memorial poles) and yidaki (didjeridus) and is a talented carver, weaver and print maker. Her work has been exhibited throughout Australia and in Asia.

From 2012 she began a phase where the artist of her own motion explored lesser known plant species which she feared were being forgotten by younger generations. This coincided with artist John Wolseley's interest in returning to Yilpara (after they had met during the Djalkiri project of 2010) and the two spent an extended period exploring the botany of Blue Mud Bay. She wants to renew the knowledge of these plants because when she was young this is the food that she grew up on. In those days old people lived for a long time without illness. John Wolesley spent a week at Yilpara with Mulkun in May 2012 and again at Yirrkala in June 2013, with further visits in 2014 and 2015.

Mediums

Print Making
Pandanus and Natural Dyes
Earth pigments on Stringybark
Earth pigments on native hibiscus
Earth pigments on Stringybark hollow pole

Solo Exhibitions

2018 Maypal - Shellfish of the Arafura Coast - Vickers St Gallery, Parap, NT

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Group Exhibitions

2019 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Whitlam Institute Gallery UWS NSW
2019 Mulkun Wirrpanda & John Wolseley: Two old artists looking for shellfish - Australian Galleries, Melbourne VIC
2019 2019 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Cowra Regional Art Gallery, Cowra, NSW
2019 Top End Ochre - Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula VIC
2018 Midawarr/Harvest The art of Mulkun Wirrpanda and John Wolseley - Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Melbourne Museum, VIC
2019 Molluscs/Maypal and the Warming of the Seas : Mulkun Wirrpanda and John Wolseley - Geelong Art Gallery
2019 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong NSW
2018 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Warwick Art Gallery, Warwick QLD
2018 Matriarchs: Motherlines of the Yolgnu and Tiwi Islands - The Cross Art Projects, Sydney
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
2017 Midawarr- Harvest - The art of Mulkun Wirrpanda and John Wolseley -Touring Exhibition - Museum and Art gallery of the Northern Territory
2018 Gapan Gallery 2018 - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
2018 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Griffith Regional Art Gallery, Griffith NSW
2017 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Tasmanian Museum And Art Gallery, Hobart TAS
2017 Gapu-Monuk: Saltwater Journey to Sea Country - National Australian Maritime Museum
2017 Entwined - Tarnanthi
2017 - Santos Museum of Economic Botany, Botanical Gardens of South Australia
2017 Tarnanthi 2017 - Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA
2017 Midawarr- Harvest - The art of Mulkun Wirrpanda and John Wolseley -Touring Exhibition - National Museum Australia ACT
2017 Earth Matters: Aboriginal artwork from the Kimberley and Arnhem Land - FORM - The Goods Shed, Perth WA
2017 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Bayside Arts and Cultural Centre Gallery, Brighton Victoria.
2017 Saltwater: A Collection of Bark Paintings & Carved Objects - Yaama Ganu Gallery, Moree NSW
2017 Gapan Gallery 2017 - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
2017 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Castlemaine State Festival, Castlemaine Market Building VIC
2017 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - University of Newcastle Gallery, Newcastle NSW
2017 Legends and Lore - Artitja Fine Art, Perth WA
2017 Mulka - ARTKELCH Collectors Lounge @ kptec, Schorndorf (close to Stuttgart), Germany
2017 Buku-Larrnggay - Art Karlsruhe, Germany
2017 Buku-Larrnggay - ARTKELCH, Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany
2016 Gapan 16 - Prints from Garma 2016 - Chapman & Bailey and Hanging Vallery, Melbourne VIC
2016 Gapan Gallery, Darwin - Nomad Art, Darwin NT
2016 Gapan Gallery in the Past - Nomad Art Productions, Darwin NT
2016 Salon des Refuse 2016 - Charles Darwin University Gallery, Darwin NT
2016 Midawarr - Harvest Series: Woodcuts by Mulkun Wirrapanda and John Wolseley - Tactile Arts Gallery and Studio, Darwin NT
2016 The Salon des Refusés 2016 - Charles Darwin University Art Gallery, Darwin NT
2016 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Printspace Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT

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2016 Yirrkala Print Space Group Show - Koskela, Sydney NSW
2016 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Charles Darwin University Gallery, Darwin NT
2015 Country & Western: landscape re-imagined - National Trust S.H Ervin Gallery, Sydney NSW
2015 Balnhdhurr: A Lasting Impression – Tarnanthi 2015 - Adelaide College of the Arts, Adelaide SA
2015 String Theory: Focus on contemporary Australian art (National tour) - Glasshouse, Port Macquarie NSW
2015 String Theory: Focus on contemporary Australian art (National tour) - Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong NSW
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 String Theory: Focus on contemporary Australian art (National tour) - Cairns Regional Gallery, Cairns QLD
2015 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Bark Paintings and Sculptures from East Arnhem Land - Yirrkala, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
2015 Lumggurma Brumby - Ute Aspen, Colorado USA
2014 String Theory: Focus on contemporary Australian art (National tour) - Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, Caboolture QLD
2014 String Theory: Focus on contemporary Australian art (National tour) - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
2014 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
2013 String Theory: Focus on contemporary Australian art - Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), Sydney NSW
2013 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
2011 Miyalk - Women, Feminine Art from Yirrkala - Framed Gallery, Darwin NT
2010 Barrupu Yunupingu & Mulkun Wirrpanda: Fire, Water and Honey - The Cross Art Projects, Sydney NSW
2010 27th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Winner 3D Category - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
2010 Djalkiri - we are standing on their names - Nomad Art, 24-Hour Art, Darwin Festival, Darwin NT
2010 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Print Space - Collograph Print Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Festival of Darwin NT
2010 17th Biennale of Sydney - Larrakitj, the Kerry Stokes Collection - Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney NSW
2010 Ten: Highlights of the Holmes a Court Collection 2000-2010 - Holmes a Court Gallery, Perth WA
2010 Art and Soul - Art Gallery of New South Wales, NSW
2009 After Berndt - Etchings from the Drawings - Indigenart, Mossenson Gallery, Subiaco. WA
2009 Flames, Floods and Honey - bark paintings by Mulkun Wirrpanda and Barrupu Yunupingu, - Cross Arts Project, Kings Cross, Sydney NSW
2008 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
2008 Galuku Gallery (Nomad Art Productions) - Darwin Festival, Darwin Botanical Gardens, NT
2000 'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala' - A National Tour - Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra ACT
2008 25th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
2007 'One Lore Two Law Outlaw - Dhakiyarr v's the King' recent bark paintings by Mulkun Wirrpanda, - Cross Art Projects, King Cross, Sydney, NSW
2007 Bukulungthunmi - Coming Together, One Place - Raft Artspace, Darwin NT
2006 l'Esprit de la terre d'Arnhem, art Aborigene du Nord de l'Australie - Passage de Retz, Paris FRANCE
2006 'Walking together to aid Aboriginal Health' - Shalom College, University of New South Wales, Sydney NSW
2006 Art d'Australie - Galerie Seine 51, Paris
2005 Yâkumirri (exhibition purchased by the Holmes a Court Collection) - Holmes a Court Gallery, Perth WA

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2005 Exhibition - Australian Embassy, Paris FRANCE
2004 Solo Show - The Blue Pineapple Cafe, Brisbane QLD
2004 Circle. Line. Column - Annandale Galleries, Sydney NSW
2001 'Extinction Denied' Humane Society International - Volvo Gallery, Sydney NSW
2000 'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala' - A National Tour - John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Perth WA
2000 Printmakers Touring Exhibition - Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra ACT
2000 Printmakers Touring Exhibition - Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane QLD
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 Buku-Larrnggay Printmakers Exhibition - The Original Dreamtime Gallery, Alice Springs NT
1999 Buku Printmakers and Dhalwa?u Paintings - Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London UK
1999 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Alcaston House Gallery, Melbourne VIC
1999 Printmakers Touring Exhibition - Boomali, Sydney NSW
1999 Printmakers Touring Exhibition - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney NSW
1999 Gapu Miny'tji - Sacred Water Designs of the Australian Aborigines of north-east Arnhem Land - Crafts Museum, Delhi, India
1998 Buku-Larrnggay Printmakers Exhibition - Northern Territory University, Darwin NT
1998 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka printmakers exhibition - Buku-Larrnggay, Yirrkala NT Collections

Collections

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney NSW
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide SA
Berndt Museum, University of Western Australia, Perth WA
British Museum, London, UK
Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Saltwater - Yirrkala Bark Paintings of Sea Country Holmes a Court Collection
Kerry Stokes Larrakitj Collection, WA
National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney NSW
National Museum of Australia, Canberra ACT

Bibliography

2010 Catalogue: 17th Biennale of Sydney - The Beauty of Distance, Songs of Survival, in a Precarious Age. ISBN 978 0 64652 794 9
2004 Dhakiyarr vs the King, Documentary, Film Australia
2010 Djalkiri - We are Standing on Their Names. Catalogue Nomad Art Productions
2017 Midawarr Harvest- The art of Mulkun Wirrpanda and John Wolseley
1999 Saltwater - Yirrkala Bark Paintings of Sea Country. Published by Buku-LarrnggayMulka ISBN 0 646 37702 7

Awards

2004 Major protagonist in Dhakiyarr vs. The King winner Rouben Mamoulian Award for the Most Outstanding film of the 13 Finalists in the Dendy Awards at the Sydney Film Festival.