

EVERYWHEN ART

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Barayuwa Mununjurr



Birth date: 1980

Birth place: Wandawuy Outstation, NT

Language: Djapu

Barayuwa Mununjurr was born in 1980 at Wandawuy outstation near Caledon Bay, Yirrkala. He is of the Djapu people and lives and works in Yirrkala.

Also known as (Djirkurrul, Gulukurru) Barayuwa paints his own Djapu designs as well as the Munyuku clan designs of his mother Bengitj's homeland, Yarrinya. Yarrinya is also the motherland of his paternal grandfather, Wonggu Mununngurr. In addition to painting, Barayuwa makes yidaki, galpu (spearthrowers), gara (spears) and bilma (clapsticks). Barayuwa and his wife Whaiora are long-time staff members of the community arts centre Buku-Larrnggay Mulka, in Yirrkala. Barayuwa and until recently his wife are long time staff members of Buku Larrnggay Mulka, providing great assistance to all the artists of the community in many ways. Partly through touching up other artists' works, Barayuwa has developed a very fine hand and is becoming an artist in his own right, painting both his own Djapu clan designs as well as his mother's Munyuku clan's. His father is recently deceased, and mother is Benggitj Nurruwutthun, a sister to the great Dula.

He often creates his own artworks and crafts such as yidaki, galpu (spearthrowers), gara (spears) and bilma (clapsticks). In 2007, he was in his first exhibition at Raft Artspace in Darwin. Early season barks in 2008 painted by Barayuwa of Munyuka clan design showed a strength and style quite reminiscent of his late uncle and became an obvious candidate for Annandales Young Guns II.

The success of his involvement in this exercise led to his involvement in a Brisbane group show in 2008 and his solo show at Indigenart in Perth in early 2009. Also during 2009 he was invited to participate in a collaborative project with Sydney based artist Ruark Lewis – Transcriptions for the Perfect House – a multi media installation at the ANU Gallery in Canberra scheduled for 2011.

He had his first solo show at Indigenart in Perth and followed that up with involvement in the 30 x 30 show of 2011. He continued to exhibit and collaborate with Ruark Lewis in 2012 and 2013 spending three weeks in an extended studio visit leading up to their joint show with Jonathan Jones at Macquarie Uni. Also in 2013 his bark in the 30th anniversary Telstra NATSIAA was awarded a Highly Commended and acquired by the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT. A further work was commissioned by the NGA.

In 2014 he was invited to exhibit in Primavera at MCA curated by Mikala Dwyer. This was a major feature of the exhibition and included a bark shelter with video screens.

Exhibitions

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2004 "Gapan Gallery" Garma Festival Print Exhibition
2004 "Galuku Gallery" Darwin Festival, Print Exhibition
2007 Garma Gapan Gallery
2007 Galuku Gallery (Darwin Festival) Print Exhibition, Botanical gardens.
2007 Bukulu\thunmi – Coming Together, One Place, Raft Artspace, Darwin NT
2008 Young Guns II, Annandale Galleries, Sydney
2008 Outside Inside – bark and hollow logs from Yirrkala, Bett Gallery Hobart, Tas
2008 'After Berndt' Etchings at the Gapan Gallery, Gulkula Garma site.
2008 'After Berndt' Etchings at the Galuku Gallery
2008 New Generations Yirrkala artists, Creative Economy, Brisbane
2009 Barayuwa Mununggurr, Indigenart – Mossenson Gallery, Perth, WA
2009 After Berndt – Indigenart – Mossenson Gallery, Perth, WA
2010 'Returning to Djakapurra' – A Collection of Poles and Barks from Yirrkala, Redot Gallery, Singapore.
2010 Gapan gallery- Collograph Print Exhibition- Garma Festival
2011 30x30 Indigenart Collingwood Subiaco.
2011 Arboreal, Macquarie University Art Gallery
2012 Gadawulkwulk means shelter, The Cross Art Projects, Sydney (with Ruark Lewis)
2013 Group show with Ruark Lewis and Jonathan Jones at Macquarie University Art Gallery
2013 NATSIAA finalist MAGNT Darwin
2013 Gapan Gallery, GARMA Festival
2014 Primavera MCA.
2018 Yarrinya - New Works, Salon Art Projects, Darwin
2019 Top End Ochre, Everywhen Artspace, Mornington Peninsula, VIC

Collections

Museum of Contemporary Art Australia
Berndt Museum of Anthropology, University of Western Australia, Perth
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
The Art Gallery of New South Wales
The National Gallery of Australia, Canberra