



Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre

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Dhuwarrwarr Marika

Date of Birth: 31/12/1945

Country:

Homeland: Yirrkala / Yalanbara / Gulurunga

Biography

Dhuwarrwarr is sister of Wandjuk, Bayngul and Banduk Marika, and daughter of Mawalan, the Rirratjingu clan leader who originally welcomed the missionaries to set up on his land, creating the beginnings of modern day Yirrkala. Dhuwarrwarr is believed by many (including Professor Howard Morphy and herself) to be the first Yolŋu woman authorised to paint sacred designs on her own. This is supported by some recently rediscovered contemporaneous evidence. The 1974 catalogue for 'Art of Aboriginal Australians presented by Rothmans Pall Mall Canada' says the following about a work by Dhuwarrwarr, "This is a most unusual painting in that it was painted by a woman of the Rirratjingu tribe of Yirrkala. It is unprecedented for a woman to be allowed to paint on bark any aspect of sacred mythology. Dhuwarrwarr's father, Mawalan, was the ceremonial leader of the Rirratjingu tribe and was steeped in the mythology of his people. He painted up to the time of his death, and with failing eyesight and poor health, allowed Dhuwarrwarr to help him, after consultation with his sons and brothers and elders of the group. She has not painted since his death until recently, when she again requested permission from her brothers to do so."

Dhuwarrwarr continues;

"From that time when my father was painting my elder sister helped him but she is a little blind now. From when I was twelve to this time I started to paint. Sometimes I used to help my father. That one (her nephew Mawalan #2) he learned from grandfather and his father. He watched his grandfather - that my father. Currently I'm doing my own art using the same design and lino printing - my fathers design but my own imagination.

When my father was alive they only painted on bark. He used to cut bark and lay it flat and store it for the dry season. His (Mawalan #2) sister Rarriwuy is learning - I have been teaching her. I'm teaching my brother's children for all the painting as well as my children. I used to ask them to come and watch me. I use my own colours from the shore - the yellow and the red, just a rock, and the black, bāyŋu (not) charcoal. Like my brother (Wandjuk), I sometimes mix yellow and black to make green. I used to go and get it in a bucket and mash it up and leave it in the sun to dry.

I am trying hard to get this man (Mawalan#2) to come back to do the painting. Not all the painting I can remember (being done) but this one; Djaŋ'kawu and this one from my brother, and this one; Djarrak (seagull). Early stage when Dorothy Bennett used to come here to collect barks my father and brother used to paint."

Dhuwarrwarr is a statesperson for her people, representing them on various committees and institutions such as Land Councils and Women's groups. In 1993 she travelled to Europe as an invited speaking guest for the opening of the international traveling exhibition of 'Aratjara - Art of the First Australians'. She also attends to the day-to-day needs of a wide group of young and old clans-people with a particular emphasis on guiding and guarding the young minds of her family. She lives on Rirratjingu land either at her house overlooking the beach and creek at Yirrkala or at Gutjangan on Bremer Island. Her first genuine solo exhibition held relatively late in her career, 'Milngurr' at Vivien Anderson Gallery in Melbourne in 2008 was a literal sell out within 5 minutes of opening. Institutional collections purchased the bulk of the works.

She has continued to exhibit commercially and to be shown in Institutional shows to this day. She creates every day as a personal need.

Mediums

Print Making

Pandanus and Natural Dyes

Mediums

Earth pigments on Stringybark

Earth pigments on Ironwood

Earth pigments on native hibiscus

Earth pigments on Stringybark hollow pole

Solo Exhibitions

2021 Dhuwarrwarr Marika - Rirratjinu Woman - Songlines Darwin

Group Exhibitions

- 2020 20|20 - 20 ARTISTS FROM OVER AUSTRALIA - Cooe Art, Sydney
- 2020 ,Resist! Die Kunst des Widerstands.' - Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum
- 2019 By the Stars, Wind and Ocean Currents - Cross Arts, Sydney, NSW
- 2019 Water - QAGOMA
- 2019 Tarnanthi 2019 - Art Gallery of South Australia
- 2019 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Whitlam Institute Gallery, UWS NSW
- 2019 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Cowra Regional Art Gallery, Cowra NSW
- 2019 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Wollongong Art Gallery, Wollongong NSW
- 2019 First Ladies - Vivien Anderson Gallery, VIC
- 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 Estranging Gallery, Bruxelles, Belgium
- 2018 36th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards-Finalist - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), NT
- 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
- 2018 Emerging Contemporaries, Indigenous Jewellery Project - Craft ACT, Canberra
- 2017 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Tasmanian Museum And Art Gallery, Hobart TAS
- 2017 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - Bayside Arts and Cultural Centre Gallery, Brighton Victoria.
- 2017 Salon des Refuse 2017 - Charles Darwin University Art Gallery, Darwin NT
- 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 Environmental Defenders Office NT Fundraising Auction - Outstation - art from art centres, Darwin NT
- 2017 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Touring Exhibition - University of Newcastle Gallery, Newcastle NSW
- 2017 Legends and Lore - Artitja Fine Art, Perth WA
- 2016 Gapan Gallery in the Past - Nomad Art Productions, Darwin NT
- 2016 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Printspace Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
- 2016 Yirrkala Print Space Group Show - Koskela, Sydney NSW
- 2016 Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression - Charles Darwin University Gallery, Darwin NT
- 2015 Balnhdhurr: A Lasting Impression – Tarnanthi 2015 - Adelaide College of the Arts, Adelaide SA
- 2015 Lumggurma - Brumby Ute Aspen, Colorado USA
- 2014 Earth Wind and Fire - Galleria Gracis, Milan Italy (JGM ART)
- 2014 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
- 2013 The Womens Show 2013 - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Victoria
- 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 Djirrirra and Dhuwarrwarr, Bark Paintings at Santa Fe - Chiaroscuro Gallery, Santa Fe, New Mexico USA
2009 Floating Life - Contemporary Aboriginal Fibre Art - Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane QLD
2009 After Berndt - Etchings from the Drawings - Indigenart, Mossenson Gallery, Subiaco. WA
2008 The Ecologies Project - Museum of Art, Monash University, Melbourne VIC
2008 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Print Space - After Bernt Etchings at Print Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Festival of Darwin NT
2008 'After Berndt - Etchings from the Drawings - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
2008 Milngurr - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
2007 Bukulungthunmi - Coming Together, One Place - Raft Artspace, Darwin NT
2007 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Japanese woodblock - Galuku Gallery, Darwin Festival Print Exhibition, Botanical gardens, Darwin NT
2007 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Japanese woodblock - Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land NT
2007 Womens Show - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
2006 Galuku Gallery - Buku-Larrnggay Mulka, Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Darwin Botanical Gardens, Festival of Darwin, Darwin NT
2006 'Walking together to aid Aboriginal Health' - Shalom College, University of New South Wales, Sydney NSW
2006 Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition - Gapan Gallery, Festival of Darwin NT
2006 Duyfken The Aboriginal Print Portfolio - Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sydney NSW
2006 Masterworks - Vivien Anderson Gallery, Melbourne VIC
2006 23rd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
2006 'Bulayi- Small Gems' - Suzanne O'Connell Gallery, Brisbane QLD
2001 Extinction Denied - Humane Society International - Volvo Gallery, Sydney NSW
2000 Printmakers Touring Exhibition - Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane QLD
2000 Printmakers Touring Exhibition - Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra ACT
1999 Printmakers Touring Exhibition - Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative, Sydney NSW
1999 Yirrkala Print Makers Show - Original Dreamtime Gallery, Alice Springs NT
1999 Yirrkala Print Makers Show - Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London UK
1999 Yirrkala Print Makers Show - Alcaston House, Melbourne VIC
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 - John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Perth WA
1999 'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala' - A National Tour - Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra ACT
1999 Printmakers Touring Exhibition - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney NSW
1998 15th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
1998 Buku-Larrnggay Printmakers Exhibition - University of the Northern Territory Art Gallery, Darwin NT
1998 Bark Paintings and Lino Cut Prints - Dhuwarrwarr Marika and Gaymala Yunupingu - Japaningka Gallery, Freemantle WA
1997 14th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT), Darwin NT
1997 The Painters of the Wagilag Sisters Story 1937 - 1997 - National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT
1996 13th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - 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
1989 Paintings and Sculptures from Yirrkala, North East Arnhem Land - Lyttleton Gallery, Melbourne VIC
1987 Sisters Miyalku Exhibition of Aboriginal Women's work - Australian Museum, Sydney NSW

1974 1974-1976 - Art of Aboriginal Australia, touring Canada - Presented by Rothmans of Pall Mall Ltd. Canada

Collections

Rautenstrauch Joest Museum, Cologne, Germany
Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney NSW
Artbank, Sydney NSW
Australian Capital Equity Collection, Perth WA
Berndt Museum, University of Western Australia, Perth WA
Charles Darwin University Art Collection
Estate of Kerry Packer Collection
Kerry Stokes Larrakitj Collection, WA
Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia. USA
Melbourne South Australian Museum. Adelaide SA
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin NT
Museum Natur und Mensch, Ethnologische Sammlung in Freiburg
Nahum Gutman Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra ACT
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne VIC
Seattle Art Museum, Seattle USA
The Kelton Foundation Collection, Santa Monica, USA

Bibliography

2008 'The Ecologies Project' Monash University Museum of Art
2013 Annandale Galleries Catalogue: Found - http://www.annandalegalleries.com.au/images/Catalogue_LR.pdf
2010 Catalogue: 17th Biennale of Sydney - The Beauty of Distance, Songs of Survival, in a Precarious Age. ISBN 978 0 64652 794 9
1998 Hutcherson G., Gong Wapitja, Woman Artists of Yirrkala. Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra.
1987 Isaacs, J. The Marika Sisters at the Australian Museum, Art Monthly, No.3.
1992 Lendon, N., Having a history: Development and Change in the Paintings of the Story of the Wagilag Sisters, Aboriginal Art in the Public eye, Art Monthly supplement.
1997 The Painters of the Wagilag Sisters Story 1937 - 1997, Exh cat. National Gallery of Australia, Caruana, Lendon, Thames and Hudson Ptd Ltd.

Awards

2020 Finalist Wynne Prize, AGNSW, Sydney
2020 Finalist NATSIAA, MAGNT, Darwin
2020 Finalist King & Wood Mallesons Contemporary First Nation Art Award
1990 Professional Development grant, from the Aboriginal Arts Unit of the Australia Council for the Arts.

Commissions

2006 'Duyfken' The Aboriginal Print Portfolio commissioned by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sydney NSW
1993 FAC Darwin Airport Commission- painting on permanent display in Darwin Airport Foyer. Darwin NT