



BUKU-LARRNGGAY MULKA

A Division of Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association Incorporated

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Maymuru, Galuma 1

Other Names

Born 08/08/51 **Died** na

Moiety Yirritja

Homeland Djarrakpi

Clan Manggalili, Belang

Selected Details of Artist's Working Life

Medium and Theme

Painting of bark with natural earth pigments.
Wooden carvings either painted with earth pigments
or designs incised with a razor.



Biography

Galuma is the surviving daughter of the great Narritjin.

Galuma was one of the first Yolŋu women to be instructed to paint (by her father) the sacred clan designs that were previously the domain of high ranking men.

In preparation for her first solo exhibition of her art she rang through to Buku-Larrnggay the following statement:

This is what I really learnt from my father.

First when I was still in school at Yirrkala he used to let me sit next to him, me and my brothers and he used to show us all the paintings from Wayawu and Djarrakpi. And he'd say this is our paintings and I'm telling you this about the paintings for in the future when I'm passed away you can use them.

Then I forgot all this when I was in school - then I stopped but I was still thinking the way he was teaching us. Then one day I decided to start on a bark by helping him at Yirrkala. Every afternoon after work I used to sit with him and paint little barks - mostly from Djarrakpi but a little from the freshwater country at Wayawu but not Milŋaywuy.

Then I was keep on doing it over and over on cardboard until my hand it gets better and better and I put it in my mind, then it was working and I kept on doing it.

I went to Djarrakpi with my family to live with my father and my mother and brothers. My brothers passed away and we had to go back to Yirrkala. I left my father and mother there when I went to live at Bäniyala. My husbands family were living there. I was teaching at the Bäniyala school still doing a little bit of painting but mainly schooling.

When my father and family died I stopped painting - just doing school work.

Once I moved to Dhuruputjpi in 1982/3 I started to paint again because no one else was doing

it and I was thinking about the way my father was talking and how did he handle all this. How did my father do all this - travel and paint - how to handle this painting so I kept on thinking. I'm not really prouder myself but I want to do this painting as my father did it and to keep it in my mind. But I really want this painting to keep going. My gurrun (Djambawa Marawili) he is looking after it as his Märi (mothers mothers side) and others are looking after it also. I have to teach my kids in case some one might steal the designs. So my kids can know what their mothers paintings is.

Exhibitions

- 1984, The First National Aboriginal Art Awards Exhibition, Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, Darwin
- 1992, The 9th National Aboriginal Art Awards Exhibition, Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, Darwin.
- 1996, Miny'tji Dhawu, Savode Gallery Brisbane, Queensland.
- 1996, The 13th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Galleries of the NT, Darwin. (selected for National Touring Exhibition)
- 1996, Big Barks, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
- 1997, The 14th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Galleries of the NT, Darwin.
- 1998, The Fifteenth National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art galleries of the NT, Darwin. (Selected for National Touring Exhibition)
- 1999, Solo 'In Memory of Narritjin', William Mora Gallery, Melbourne Vic
- 1999/2001, 'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala, The Drill Hall Gallery, ANU, Canberra Act; John Curtin University, Curtin University, Perth WA; National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney NSW; Museum of Modern Art at Heide, Melbourne; Araluen Arts and Entertainment Centre, Alice Springs, NT; Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, QLD.
- 2000, Fifth National Indigenous Heritage Art Awards, Old Parliament House, Canberra, ACT.
- 2000, Aboriginal Bark Paintings, Sculptures and Hollow Logs, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
- Feb 2001, Sacred bark paintings from Outstation artist Galuma Maymuru, Helen Maxwell Gallery, Canberra.
- Nov. 2001 New from Old Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW.
- 2001 Garma Larrakitj installation
- 2002, Bark Paintings by Galuma and Dhukal, Framed Gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2002 19th NATSIAA MAGNT
- 2002 Sydney Opera House Larrakitj Installation
- 2003 Buwayak Annandale Galleries Sydney
- 2003 Larrakitj Rebecca Hossack Gallery
- 2003 20th NATSIAA MAGNT
- 2004 21st NATSIAA MAGNT
- July 2004 Circle, Line, Column Annandale Galleries, Sydney.
- May 2005 Solo Exhibition in conjunction with Source of Fire
- July-Aug 2005 Yakumirri Raft Artspace
- 2005 14 October-27 November 'Yäkumirri', Holmes a Court Gallery , Perth
- 2006 'Bulayi- Small Gems' Suzanne O'Connell Gallery Brisbane
- 2006 'Dreaming their Way- Australian Aboriginal Women Painters' National Museum of Women in

the Arts, Washington D.C., USA

Collections

Berndt Museum of Anthropology, University of Western Australia, Perth.
National Museum of Australia, Canberra.
The Kelton Foundation, Santa Monica, USA.
JW Kluge Collection, Virginia, USA
The Gantner Myer Collection, Melbourne, Victoria.
National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney NSW
Sydney Opera House, Sydney, NSW
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
Harland Collection
Ballarat Fine Art Gallery
Holmes a Court Collection
Seattle Art Museum
Woodside Energy Ltd. Art Collection
National Gallery of Victoria
The Kerry Stokes Collection

Bibliography

Gong Wapitja - Women and Art from Yirrkala, Gillian Hutchenson, Aboriginal Studies Press
1997. 13th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards Touring Catalogue.
1999. 15th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards Touring Catalogue.
Films from the Ian Dunlop series "the Yirrkala Project" ; 'Baniyala' and 'One Mans Responce'.
1999. Saltwater - Yirrkala Bark Paintings of Sea Country. Buku-Larrngay Mulka Centre in
conjunction with Jennifer Isaacs Publishing. ISBN 0 646 37702 7 pp56,57,104
1999. Art from the Land. University of Virginia. ISBN 0 646 37087 1 Edited by Howard Morphy
and Margo Smith-Bowles. pp70 & 72
1999. Spirit Country - Contemporary Australian Aboriginal Art by Jennifer Isaacs ISBN 1
86498 049 4 pp 199, 200, 201.
2003 Buwayak Invisibilty exn.cat
2003 Arts of Asia vol 33 #6 Nov-Dec 2003
2004 Tradition Today Indigenous Art in Australia Art Gallery of NSW

Awards

Telstra NATSIAA Best Bark Painting 2003

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