



Donald Moko

b. circa 1952, Yirrkala, Northern Territory, Australia

BIOGRAPHY

Nawurapu Wununmurra is the eldest son of 1997 Telstra National Aboriginal and Islander Art Award Overall First Prize winner, the late Yagarriny Wununmurra. He has been trained in the school of this old man (who was the first Aboriginal artist to have his copyright recognized in an Australian court) from an early age at first assisting his father and then, as his own spiritual authority increased, in his own right. The critic Giles Autey has twice praised Nawurapu's entries to the Telstra National Aboriginal and Islander Art Award in years 1995 and 1997 but he did not win any award. His 2006 entry to this competition was purchased by the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT who hold the awards.

His father was one of the senior Yirritjamoiety elders. Since his passing, Nawurapu has stepped into this senior role with his brothers. With his ceremonial responsibilities he is required to move between the home land centres of the Miwatj region, NorthEast Arnhemland and even beyond into Central Arnhemland. He has lived at Yirrkala, Gurrumurru, Gangan, Gapuwiak and Wandawuy in recent years. After involvement in all the major group projects stemming from Yirrkala in the 1990's his first solo show was at Sydney's Grant Pirrie Gallery in 2004. His sculptural work made a big impact at Bitpit exhibition at Raft artspace in 2008. A set of his Mokuy were purchased by the Queensland Art Gallery.

He was included in the major contemporary survey show Optimismat, The Gallery of Modern Art in 2008 and exhibited at the 3rd Moscow Biennale in 2009. In 2010 he won the inaugural 'New Media' prize with a set of film illuminated Mokuy carvings at the 27th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards. His bronzes now installed in the heart of Darwin's Waterfront by the NT Government.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 17th Biennale of Sydney, 'Larrakitj - the Kerry Stokes Collection', Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, NSW.
- 2010 27th NATSIAA, MAGNT Darwin, NT - winner New Media Award
- 2009 Larrakitj - the Kerry Stokes Collection, Art Gallery of WA, Perth, WA
- 2009 After Berndt - Etchings from the Drawings, Mossenson Galleries, Subiaco, WA
- 2009 3rd Moscow Biennale, The Garage, Moscow, Russia.
- 2009 Floating Life- Contemporary Aboriginal Fibre Art, Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane
- 2008 Outside Inside - bark and hollow logs from Yirrkala, Bett Gallery Hobart, Tas
- 2008 Bitpit, carvings from Yirrkala, Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT
- 2008 25th NATSIAA, MAGNT, Darwin

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- 2008 Gapan Gallery - Bendt Prints, Garma Festival Site, Gulkula, NT.
 2008 Galuku Gallery - Berndt Prints, Darwin Festival, Botanical Gardens, Darwin, NT
 2008 'Optimism', Gallery of Modern Art, Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, QLD
 2007 Galuku Gallery, Festival of Darwin, NT
 2007 Bukulungthunmi - Coming Together, One Place, Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT
 2007 Palya Art in Melbourne, The Barn, Melbourne
 2006 Telstra NATSIAA
 2006 L'esprit de Terre d'Arnhem Passage de Retz Paris
 2006 APS Bendi Lango art exhibition supporting indigenous psychology education
 2006 Art d'Australie Galerie Seine 51, Paris
 2005 Yakumirri Raft Artspace (exhibition purchased by the Holmes a Court collection)
 2005 14 October-27 November 'Yakumirri', Holmes a Court Gallery, Perth
 2005 Ngann Girra Festival Albury Regional Museum
 2004 21st NATSIAA MAGNT
 2004 Grant Pirrie Gallery Sydney 'Larrakitj' Nawurapu Wunu\murra first solo show.
 2003 Garma Festival Larrakitj Installation
 1999/2001 Saltwater Country, Bark Paintings from Yirrkala, a National Tour, Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra; John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Perth; Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney; Museum of Modern Art at Heide, via Melbourne; Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, Queensland University of Technology,
 1999 Gapu Miny'tji - Sacred Water Designs of the Australian Aborigines of north-east Arnhem Land, Crafts Museum, Delhi, India
 1998 15th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art gallery of the NT, Darwin
 1997 14th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, Darwin.

AWARDS

- 2010 Winner 27th NATSIAA - New Media Award.
 2010 Winner 27th NATSIAA- People's Choice Award

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 'Salwater, Yirrkala bark Paintings of Sea Country', Buku-Larr\gay Mulka, pp96 ISBN 0 646 37702 7
 Optimism - Queensland Art Gallery ISBN 978 1 876509 57 6
 2009 - Catalogue 'Against Exclusion' at the Garage Centre for Contemporary Culture, 3rd Moscow Biennale
 2010 - Catalogue - 17th Biennale of Sydney 2010, The Beauty of Distance and Songs of Survival in a Precarious Age.

COLLECTIONS

- Queensland Art Gallery
 John Kluge Collection, Virginia, USA
 National Gallery of Australia
 Col and Liz Laverty Collection, Sydney.
 Art Gallery of New South Wales
 National Maritime Museum
 Ballarat Fine Art Gallery
 Kerry Stokes Collection
 South Australian Museum
 Holmes a Court Collection
 Seattle Art Museum
 Woodside Energy Ltd. Art Collection
 Museum and Art Gallery of the NT
 Commonwealth Bank Art Collection

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