



Ivan Namirrkki

Born in 1961, Marrkolidjban

BIO

Kuninjku artist Ivan Namirrkki was born in 1961. Namirrkki was taught to paint by his father Peter Marralwanga (1917–1987) - a renowned bark painter and political proponent of the maintenance of 'country'. Namirrkki was first taught to paint by his father in a figurative manner. The focus was stories like Kalawan and Namorrorddo for his Kardbam clan lands near Mankorlod although later Marralwanga also guided Namirrkki in the stories for other clans around Kumurrulu. He helped his father work on two exhibitions in Perth in 1981 and 1983 and travelled to Perth as part of the project. To distinguish his own figurative works Namirrkki often used black paint as the background to the figures although, like his father, he also became adept at varying the pattern of infill from rarrk to dotting to sections of full colour to create dynamic visual effects. In the late 1990s Namirrkki moved to paint geometric work in the Mardayin style. His style is very strongly symmetrical with evenly spaced bands of rarrk arrayed in concentric diamond forms. This diamond arrangement has become his signature and it features as the background of works that show the complex interconnections between waterholes in his country. He also contrasts this patterning with dotting and other variations of rarrk to indicate the power of the sites. Occasionally Namirrkki will return to paint figurative images or combine them in more geometric images. Common themes in his work include the ngalyod (rainbow serpent), birmlu and djarlahdjarlah (barramundi), kalawan (goanna), komorlo (little egret), komrdawh (freshwater turtle), nadjinem (black wallaroo), nakidikidi (a harmful and nasty spirit), namorrorddo (a profane spirit), nayuhungki bininj (ancient people), ngaldjalarrk (snake), ngalyod (rainbow serpent), ngurrurdu (emu), and yawkyawk (a female water spirit). He is also known for painting leech djang located at Yibalaydjyigod and maggot djang located at Yirolk. Luke Taylor cites Namirrkki and his father's work, transferring this djang (or dreaming), as a political act, invoking a tangible aboriginal ontology in relation to land, life and the spiritual.

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“The point of painting such work for the market is to expose viewers directly to the power of the Ancestral realm...Namirrkki has spoken of his love for country particularly the soothing qualities of living adjacent to its important waters. There is also a confidence and peace derived from living in one's heartland that flows to all activities conducted there. An understanding of the importance of country provides the context for more developed understanding of Kuninjku concepts of personhood, sociality, power, and health, as well as local.’

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 *Ivan Namirrkki*, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Australia
- 2007 *Ivan Namirrkki*, Raft Artspace, Darwin, Australia
- 2002 *NSW Kardbam namurungi - rarrk designs from the kardbam clan*, Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney, Australia
- 1999 *Ivan Namirrkki*, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Northern Waters*, Short St Gallery, Broome, Australia
- 2020 *Tarnanthi Art Fair*, Lot Fourteen, Adelaide, Australia
- 2020 *RESILIENCE: The power of the past today*, Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Fine Art, Brussels, Belgium
- 2019 *Rendezvous*, ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
- 2019 *Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair*, Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin, Australia
- 2019 *art Karlsruhe 2019*, ARTKELCH @ art Karlsruhe 2019, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2018 *Mardayin - Aboriginal Art von Maningrida Arts*, ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
- 2018 *Aboriginal Art von Maningrida Arts*, Art Kelch Mardayin, Australia
- 2018 *From Coast to Escarpment: Spirit Worlds of Maningrida*, Michael Reid, Sydney, Australia
- 2018 *Outstation*, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, Australia
- 2017 *Landscape as Knowledge*, Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Sydney, Australia
- 2016 *Bark + Ironwood*, Charles Nodrum Gallery, Melbourne, Australia
- 2015 *Summer Sojourn*, Art Atrium, Sydney, Australia
- 2015 *Exploration of Bark*, Outstation Gallery, Darwin, Australia
- 2014 *Luminous World: Contemporary Art from the Wesfarmers Collection*, Academy Gallery, University of Tasmania Gallery, Tasmania
- 2012 *Maningrida Group Show*, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Australia
- 2011 *The Dreaming Changes Shape*, Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Australia
- 2011 *Westfarmers Exhibition*, Perth, Australia
- 2010 *Collection Highlights*, Seva Frangos Art, Subiaco, Australia
- 2010 *Best of Maningrida*, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2009 *Recent Works by Maningrida*, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, Australia
- 2009 *26th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards Exhibition*, Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia
- 2009 *Ancestral Spirit Beings and Ceremonial Lorrkon*, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Australia
- 2008 *Togart Contemporary Art Award*, Togart, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2008 *Maningrida Arts*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2008 *"Gungura - The Spiraling Wind"*, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2008 *Melbourne Art Fair*, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, Australia
- 2008 *25th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards Exhibition*, Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia
- 2007 *rarrk*, Bargehouse Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2007 *Spirit Beings*, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Lorrkon, Australia
- 2007 *Spirit in Variation Part II*, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2007 *ACT New Works*, Chapman Gallery, Canberra, Australia
- 2007 *Spirit in Variation*, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2007 *Maningrida group show*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2006 *Our Home*, CDU Art Collection, CDU, Darwin, Australia
- 2006 *Clemenger Contemporary Art Prize La Fontaine Centre of Contemporary Art*, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain Dream Tracks, Aboriginal art of Arnhem Land, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
- 2006 *Lorrkons and Spirit Figures*, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2005 *Bark paintings and carvings from Maningrida*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2005 *Rarrk, flowing on from Crossing Country*, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2005 *Recent works from Maningrida*, Short Street Gallery, Broome, Australia
- 2005 *22nd National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Arts Awards*, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia
- 2004 *Hollow Logs from Maningrida*, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Australia
- 2004 *Crossing Country: the alchemy of western Arnhem Land art*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
- 2004 *Maningrida Burial Poles*, Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2004 *Maningrida Recent Works*, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, Australia
- 2004 *Bark paintings, carvings and fibre works from Maningrida*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2003 *RAKA award, Places that Name Us*, The Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne, Australia
- 2003 *20th Telstra national Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award*, Framed gallery, Darwin, Australia
- 2003 *Out of the wet -new art by Kuninjku artists*, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia
- 2003 *Mythological beings from Maningrida*, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2003 *The Visit*, Annandale galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2002 *19th Telstra National & Torres Strait Islander Art Award Exhibition*, Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia
- 2002 *Barks in the spotlight*, Utrecht, The Netherlands

- 2002 *Kuninjku show*, Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, United Kingdom
 2002 *East + West*, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
 2001 *In the Heart of Arnhem Land. Myth and the making of contemporary Aboriginal art*, Musée del l'Hôtel-Dieu, Man-
 tes-la-Jolie, France
 2001 Arnhem Land Carvings and Bark Paintings, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, Australia
 2001 Outside in: Research Engagements with Arnhem Land Art, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Can-
 berra, Australia
 2001 18th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award Exhibition, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern
 Territory, Darwin, Australia
 2000 Kuninjku Cosmology: recent works by Mick Kubarkku and his sons, Aboriginal & Pacific Arts, Sydney, Australia
 2000 Aboriginal bark paintings, sculptures & hollow logs , Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
 2000 Biennale Of Sydney 2000, Biennale Of Sydney, various venues at various location, Australia
 1989 Kunwinjku, Deutscher Gertrude Street, Melbourne, Australia
 1988 Gunwinggu Artists, Beaufort Convention Centre, Darwin, Australia
 1983 Artists of Arnhem Land, Canberra School of Arts, Canberra, Australia

COLLECTION

Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
 Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
 Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, Australia
 Artbank, Sydney, Australia
 Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Australia
 Charles Darwin University Art Collection, Australia
 Djomi Museum, Maningrida, Auastralia
 Dr. Colin and Liz Laverty private collection, Sydney, Australia
 Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, Australia
 Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia
 National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
 The Kaplan-Levi Collection, Private Collection, United States of America

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