



Nonggirnga Marawili

Born c. 1939, Arnhem Land, Australia. Died in 2023, Yirrkala, Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, Australia.

BIOGRAPHY

Nonggirnga Marawili was a senior Yolngu artist who, from the mid-1990s until her death in October 2023, produced a significant body of works on paper and stringybark on site at Buku-Larrnggay Mulka, Yirrkala Art Centre.

Marawili's practice can be considered radical as she often painted sacred water designs that were the exclusive purview of male artists until she was approved to incorporate them into her work. She often painted using natural pigments such as earth ochres contrasted with pink ink from recycled print toner cartridges. Marawili's collision of artistic materials that reference both an ancestral past and technological future is a particularly striking feature of her work. Covering elementary terrains of coastal salt-water crashing onto harrowed rocks, lightning storms which congregate in the skies, and fires, Marawili's works are also heavily punctuated by themes of regeneration and transformation. Nature feels colossal but logical in her work. The repetition of diamond shapes and carefully paralleled lines laid down with a long brush made from human hair recall Madayin Miny 'tji (Ceremonial Clan Designs). Miny 'tji are said to be found in the Land, inscribed in the earth during Wangarr (Creation Time). Their continuing presence is embedded in the country suggesting the intervention and influence of the Land on human culture. Marawili sublimated the Miny 'tji of her husband's Djapu moiety clan designs, the Galpu designs of her mother's clan and that of her own clan, the Madarrpa.

In 2018, Marawili was called "one of the most dynamic Indigenous artists at work today" by The Sydney Morning Herald's art critic John McDonald in his review of her solo retrospective *From my Heart and Mind* at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney. In 2020, Marawili was selected to participate in *NIRIN*, 22nd Biennale of Sydney, exhibiting two major installations: one at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) and the other at Campbelltown Arts Centre. In 2021, she was shortlisted for three national prizes, the Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Darwin, Northern Territory; the Hadley's Art Prize, Hobart, Tasmania; and the Wynne Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney. Her works were also included in a landmark exhibition presented by the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra entitled *Know My Name: Australian Women Artists 1900 to Now* and in an exhibition at the ARTIZON Museum (formerly Bridgestone Museum of Art) in Tokyo, Japan entitled *STEPS AHEAD*. In addition to selling-out at her solo show with Alcaston Gallery titled *DĀL – Resilience*, Marawili was also included in the 2021-22 exhibition, *Bark Ladies* at the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne. In 2022, the Tate Modern, London and MCA, Sydney acquired one of Marawili's bark paintings for their permanent collections as part of the International Joint Acquisition Program for contemporary Australian art.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Nonggirnga Marawili: From My Heart and Mind*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Australia
 - 2016 *Nonggirnga Marawili Bark*, Tim Melville Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand
 - 2016 *Nonggirnga Marawili - Baratjula*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
 - 2015 *Lightning and the Rock*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
 - 2014 *Nonggirnga Marawili - Yathikpa*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
 - 2013 *Nonggirnga Marawili: And I am Still Here*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
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GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Travelling Through Country*, JGM Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2016 *Nomad Art*, Gapan Gallery, Darwin, Australia
- 2016 *In the Past*, Gapan Gallery, Nomad Art Productions, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2016 *Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Printspace exhibition*, Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast

- Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2016 *Yirrkala Print Space Group Show*, Koskela, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
- 2016 *Balnhdhurr - A Lasting Impression*, Charles Darwin University Gallery, Darwin, Australia
- 2016 *Mala - Together as a Group*, Raft Artspace - Core Collective Studio Space, Tasmania, Australia
- 2015 *32nd National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award*, Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2015 *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards*, Art Gallery of Western Australia, Western Australia, Australia
- 2015 *Nonggirnga Marawili represented by Alcaston Gallery*, Sydney Contemporary Art Fair, Sydney, Australia
- 2015 *Lumggurma/North*, Brumby Ute, United States
- 2015 *All Watched Over*, James Cohen Gallery, New York City, United States
- 2015 *Mother to Daughter: On Art and Caring for Homelands*, The Cross Art Projects, Sydney, Australia
- 2015 *Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Bark Paintings and Sculptures from East Arnhem Land*, Yirrkala, Australia
- 2014 *Kitchenalia*, Goulburn Regional Gallery, Goulburn, New South Wales, Australia
- 2014 *31st Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award*, Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2014 *Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition*, Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land, Australia
- 2013 *30th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award*, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2013 *Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition*, Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land, Australia
- 2012 Darwin Festival, Gan'yu Gallery, Darwin, Australia
- 2012 *Togart NT Contemporary Art Awards*, Chan Contemporary Art Space, Darwin, Australia
- 2011 *Miyalk - Women, Feminine Art from Yirrkala*, Framed Gallery, Darwin, Australia
- 2008 *'After Berndt - Etchings from the Drawings'*, Galuku Gallery, Darwin Festival, Darwin Botanical Gardens, Australia
- 2008 *'After Berndt - Etchings from the Drawings'*, Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land, Australia
- 2007 *Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Japanese woodblock*, Galuku Gallery, Darwin Festival Print Exhibition, Darwin, Australia
- 2007 *Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Japanese woodblock* Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land, Australia
- 2007 *Mother and Daughter*, Nonggirnga and Marrnyula, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
- 2006 *Ngann Girra Festival*, Albury Regional Museum, New South Wales, Australia
- 2006 *Darwin Festival*, Darwin Botanical Gardens, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2006 *Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition*, Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land, Australia
- 2005 *Darwin Festival*, Darwin Botanical Gardens, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2005 *Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition*, Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land, Australia
- 2004 *Darwin Festival*, Darwin Botanical Gardens, Northern Territory, Australia
- 2004 *Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Print Space Exhibition*, Gapan Gallery, Garma Festival, Gulkula, Northeast Arnhem Land, Australia
- 2001 *Yirrkala*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 2001 *Buku-Larrnggay Mulka - Yirrkala Screenprints*, Northern Territory University, Darwin, Australia
- 2000 *Printmakers Touring Exhibition*, Fireworks Gallery, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
- 2000 *Buku-Larrnggay Printmakers - Touring Exhibition*, Ben Grady Gallery, Canberra, Australia
- 1999 *'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala'*, A National Tour, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
- 1999 *Buku-Larrnggay Printmakers - Touring Exhibition*, Hogarth Gallery, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
- 1999 *Buku-Larrnggay Printmakers - Touring Exhibition*, The Original Dreamtime Gallery, Alice Springs, Australia
- 1999 *'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala'* - A National Tour, Araluen Art Centre, Alice Springs, Australia
- 1999 Museum of Modern Art at Heide, Melbourne VIC - *'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala'* - A National Tour
- 1999 *'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala'* - A National Tour, The National Maritime Museum, Sydney, Australia
- 1999 *'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala'* - A National Tour, John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Perth, Australia
- 1999 *Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Printmakers and Dhalwangu Clan Bark Paintings*, Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, United Kingdom

- 1999 *'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala'* - A National Tour, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia
- 1999 *Buku Printmakers and Djambawaw Marawili Carvings*, Alcaston Gallery, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- 1999 *Printmakers Touring Exhibition*, Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative, Sydney, Australia
- 1999 *Gapu Minytji - Sacred Water Designs of the Australian Aborigines of north-east Arnhem Land*, Crafts Museum, Delhi, India
- 1998 *Buku Printmakers and Bark Paintings*, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, Australia
- 1998 *15th National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award*, Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia
- 1998 *Buku-Larrnggay Printmakers Exhibition*, Aboriginal Fine Arts Gallery, Darwin, Australia
- 1998 *Buku-Larrnggay Mulka printmakers exhibition*, Buku-Larrnggay, Yirrkala, Northern Territory, Australia
- 1996 *13th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards*, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia
- 1995 *Minytji Buku-Larrnggay, Paintings from the East*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
- 1994 *Power of the Land, Masterpieces of Aboriginal Art*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia
- 1994 *The 11th National Aboriginal Art Awards Exhibition*, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia
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COLLECTIONS

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
Berndt Museum, University of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia
The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, United States
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Debra and Dennis Scholl Collection

RESIDENCIES / ART PRIZES / PUBLIC ART:

- 2015 Finalist and highly commended: Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards
- 2015 Winner: Best Bark Painting 32th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards
- 2014 Finalist 31th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards
- 2013 Finalist Arthur Guy Memorial Painting Prize, Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo
- 2013 Finalist 30th Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Awards

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