



BUKU-LARRNGAY MULKA

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Naminapu Maymuru-White

Other Names

Born	20/07/52
Died	na
Moiety	Yirritja
Homeland	Djarrakpi
Clan	Mangalili, Belan group

Selected Details of Artist's Working Life

Medium and Theme

Bark painting, batik textiles
Lino cut prints
Carved and painted wooden figures
Hollow Logs



Biography

Naminapu's major interest is her art. She is an extremely versatile artist with skills in the areas of painting, carving, screen-printing, weaving, lino-cuts and batik work. As a child she used to sit for hours patiently watching her father paint. At about the age of 12, she began to learn herself, and was fortunate in being taught by her father's brother, Narritjin Maymuru, as well as by her own father, Nänysin Maymuru. Both men were extremely able and well-known artists, whose works hang in many Australian and overseas museums. As one of the first Yolngu women to be taught to paint miny'tji (sacred creation clan designs) she was part of the historic adaptations by the elders of the Yolngu in the last forty years which included the revelation of previously restricted designs in pursuit of justice in the Land Rights struggle (for example, The Bark Petition, The Yirrkala Church Panels)

Naminapu Maymuru was born a member of the Mangalili clan, at the Yirrkala mission station in Northeast Arnhem Land in Northern Australia in 1952. After attending the mission school, she worked for some time in the store and craft shop and also helped out in the local bank.

When the Homeland Centre of Gurka'wuy was established in 1973, Naminapu went to live there with her husband and young family of three children. These were the early days of the Homeland Movement which included the establishment by Narritjin of the Mangalili homeland of Djarrakpi (extensively documented by Ian Dunlop of Film Australia in the twenty two films of the Yirrkala Film Project). During the years she spent there, Naminapu worked as a teacher trainee and later, on her return to Yirrkala, completed her teacher training.

When she later married Leon White, a teacher in the Northern Territory, Naminapu went to live for several years in Melbourne and Darwin. She has travelled within Australia quite

extensively as well as to Japan.

In 1985, Naminapu returned with her husband and family to live in Yirrkala, now no longer a mission station but a locally governed Aboriginal community. Following her return, she taught art to the children at the local school and then began working at the Craft Shop attached to the Buku-Larrnggay Arts Centre. In 1990, she was appointed Curator of the recently established Art Museum attached to this Centre, a position which she held until 1996.

Naminapu's works were exhibited very successfully with those of Bandak Marika, another Yirrkala woman artist, at a 'dual' exhibition held in Warnambool and Sydney, in 1990. Her works are also frequently included in combined exhibitions in Australia and overseas and she is now herself represented in most major institutional collections in the country.

In August 1996 at the 13th Telstra National Aboriginal and Islander Art Awards her limited edition linoprint triptych "Nyapilingu" was chosen as the 'Best Work on Paper'.

In 1998 she was selected as the National Indigenous Heritage Art Award Joint Runner-up Normandy Art Award (for her bark "Mangalili")

One of her memorial poles with the Milnjyawuy or milky way design won the Wandjuk Marika Memorial 3D award at the 2005 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards.

Exhibitions

1984, The First National Aboriginal Art Award Exhibition, Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, Darwin.

1989, Paintings and Sculptures from Yirrkala, NORTH EAST ARNHEM LAND, Lyttleton Gallery, Melbourne

1990, The Seventh National Aboriginal art awards Exhibition, Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, Darwin.

1992/3, New Tracks Old Land: An Exhibition of Contemporary Prints from Aboriginal Australia, touring USA and Australia

1993, Namiyal Bopirri, Naminapu White, Australian Girls Own Gallery, Canberra, ACT

1994, The Eleventh National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Galleries of the NT, Darwin.

1995, Miny'tji Buku-Larrnggay, Paintings from the East, National gallery of Victoria, Melbourne.

1995, The Twelfth National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, Darwin.

1996, The Thirteenth National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Galleries of the NT, Darwin. (Winner - best work on paper).

1997, Native Title, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney.

1998, The Fourth National Indigenous Heritage Art Award, Old Parliament House, Canberra, ACT. (Joint runner-up Normandy Heritage Art Prize)

1998, Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Printmakers Exhibition, NT University Art Gallery, Darwin.

1999, 'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala' a National Tour - Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT; John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Perth, WA; National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney, NSW; Museum of Modern Art at Heide, Melbourne, Vic; Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs NT; Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Qld.

2000, 17th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art awards, Museum and Art Galleries of the NT, Darwin, NT.

Nov. 2001 New from Old Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW.

2003 Brighton International Art Festival UK

2003 Larrakitj Rebecca Hossack Gallery

2004 Milnjyawuy/Milky Way (first solo show) Framed Darwin

2005 New Work Alison Kelly Gallery Melbourne

July-August 2005 Y kumirri Raft Artspace (exhibition purchased by the Holmes a Court collection)

2005 22nd Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, MAGNT Darwin

2005 14 October-27 November 'Y kumirri', Holmes a Court Gallery , Perth

13 May until 13 August, 2006 National Gallery of Australia 'Right here, right now: recent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander acquisitions'

June 2006 'Walking together to aid Aboriginal Health' Shalom College UNSW

2006 'Bulayi- Small Gems' Suzanne O'Connell Gallery Brisbane

2006 Nami- Bandigan Gallery Sydney

2007 Milnjyawuy - Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT.

2007 Garma Gapan Gallery- Japanese woodblock

2007 Galuku Gallery- Japanese woodblock (Darwin Festival) Print Exhibition, Botanical gardens.

2008 Garma Gapan Gallery -Berndt Etchings

2008 Galuku Gallery- Berndt Etchings (Darwin Festival) Print Exhibition, Botanical gardens.

2008 Etched in the Sun Prints made by Indigenous artists in collaboration with Basil Hall & Printers

1997-2007 A.NU,ACT

2008 'Outside inside - bark and hollow logs from Yirrkala', Bett gallery, Hobart Tas

2008. 'SAME ONLY DIFFERENT' Mogo raw Art and Blues, Mogo, NSW

2009 After Berndt - Indigenart - Mossenson Gallery, Perth, WA

2009 'Starry starry night' Framed Gallery group survey show

2010 17th Biennale of Sydney, 'Larrakitj' - the Kerry Stokes Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, NSW.

2011 Miyalk-Women Feminine art from Yirrkala Framed Gallery Darwin

Collections

Berndt Museum of Anthropology, University of WA.
 Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, Darwin.
 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.
 National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne.
 National Museum of Australia, Canberra.
 Australian National Maritime Museum
 National Australia Bank
 Art Gallery of South Australia
 Musee de Lyon France
 Holmes a Court collection, Perth, Australia.
 Colin and Liz Laverty, Sydney.
 Kerry Stokes Collection - Larrakitj

Bibliography

'Gong-Wapitja' by Gill Hutcherson AIATSIS 1998
 'Djalkiri-Wanja' by Gill Hutcherson Berndt Museum 1995
 'Buku-Larrngay Mulka Centre Print Catalogue' 1998 NTU
 'Spirit in Land' by Judith Ryan National Gallery of Victoria 1990
 'Saltwater, Yirrkala Bark Paintings of Sea Country', Buku-Larrngay Mulka pp103 ISBN 0 646 37702 7
 "Lonely Boy Richard" Film Australia video 2003
 Catalogue, 17th Biennale of Sydney, The Beauty of Distance, Songs of Survival, in a Precarious Age. ISBN 978 0 64652794 9

Awards

1996 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award Best Work on Paper (for her triptych 'Nyapilingu')

1998 National Indigenous Heritage Art Award Joint Runner-up Normandy Art Award (for her bark "Mangalili")

2000, Artist residency at the National School of Art, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT.

2005 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award Wandjuk Marika Best 3D Work

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