



“The Elcho Arts Centre represents award winning Yolngu artists and emerging artists; those whose work honors ancestral forms and others whose practice explores contemporary art forms. The arts centre is proud of its established reputation for integrity and the high quality of services provided to the artists as well as its national and international clientele.”

*Dr. Susan Cochrane
Curator*

Living Art

July 11 – September 30

2011

Living Art from Ancient Land is a group exhibition featuring about 38 original works by nine of Elcho Island Arts leading artists. The exhibition includes paintings by Peter Datjing, paintings & prints by Margaret Gudumurrkuwuy, Spirit Men sculptures by Jeremiah Bonson, bark paintings by Richard Gandhuwuy, soft sculpture by Mavis Warrngila Ganambarr. These artists have achieved high reputations in Australia and internationally.

Yolngu Artists
from Elcho Island



SHALINI GANENDRA FINE ART
@ Gallery Residence

Peter Datjing (b. 1953)

Peter Datjin is the son of Charlie Matjuwi Burarrwanga, clan leader and elder for the Gumatj Burarrwanga Clan, and world-renown aboriginal artist. His mother, (now deceased) Elizabeth Djakminy was also an artist, but is remembered for her exceptional fibre works. Peter currently works at Shepardson College as an art teacher and community liaison officer.

Peter has traveled to various cities and areas of Australia, Europe America and Canada for cultural displays and exhibitions. He had been living on and off at his outstation at Mata Mata (mainland) until settling back at Galiwin'ku Community, Elcho Island, to continue pursuing his art career. As a senior custodian of his clan, Peter is renowned for his paintings of sacred Gumatj designs on bark paintings, hollow logs, dance poles and ochres on canvas.

Peter has been recognized for his important contribution with awards such as the 15th, 16th and 17th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Art Awards. His works are held in collections from the Paris Museum (MNAAO) to The Ethnographic Museum of Geneva, Switzerland.



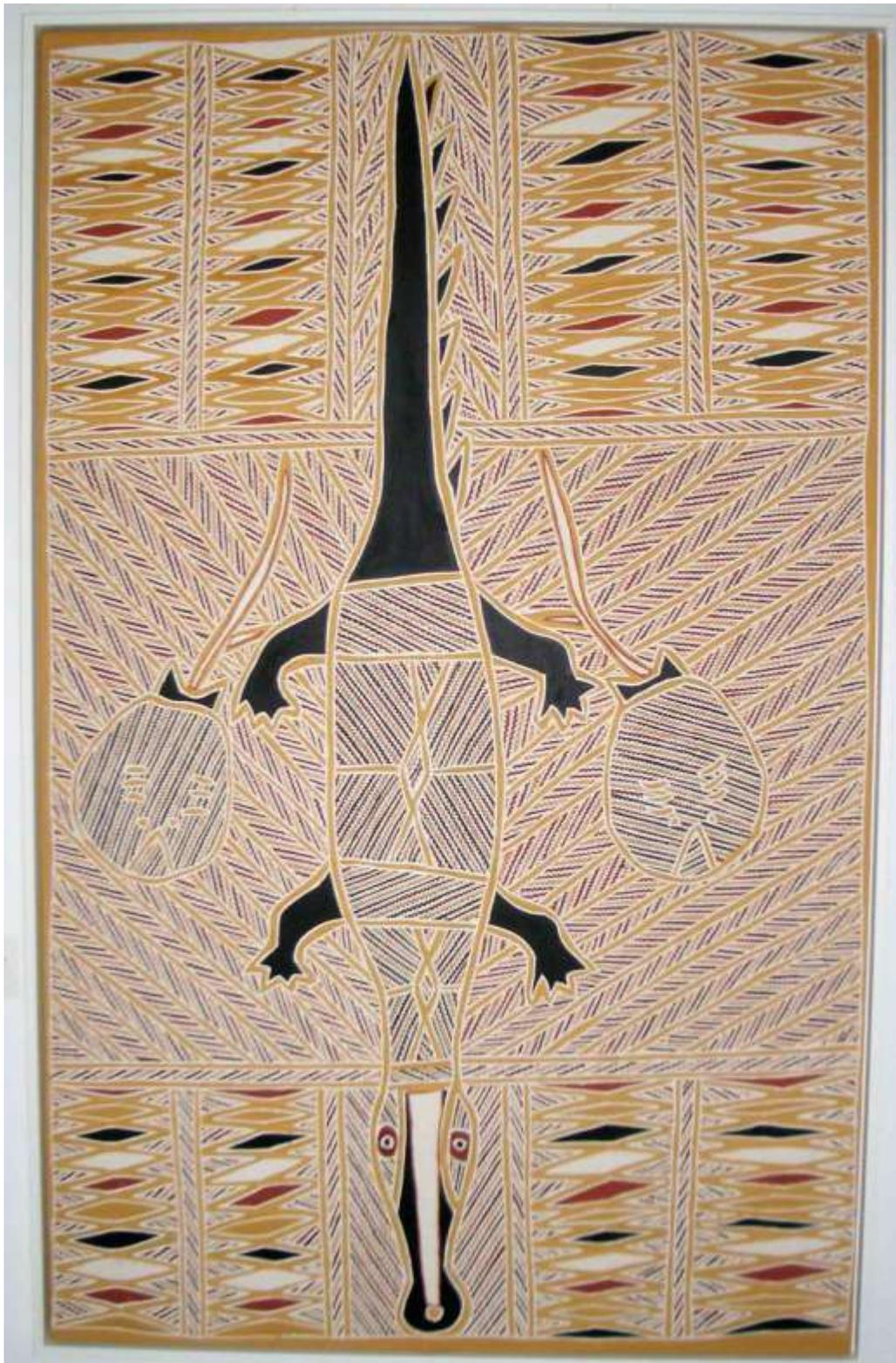
Peter Datjing
Fire Diamond I
Ochre on canvas, 100 x 75 cm
LA – 1



Peter Datjing
Yellow Rock Chest Design
Ochre & fixative on canvas, 75 x 130 cm

LA-2

SOLD



Peter Datjing

Payback

Ochre & fixative on canvas, 90 x 140 cm

LA - 3



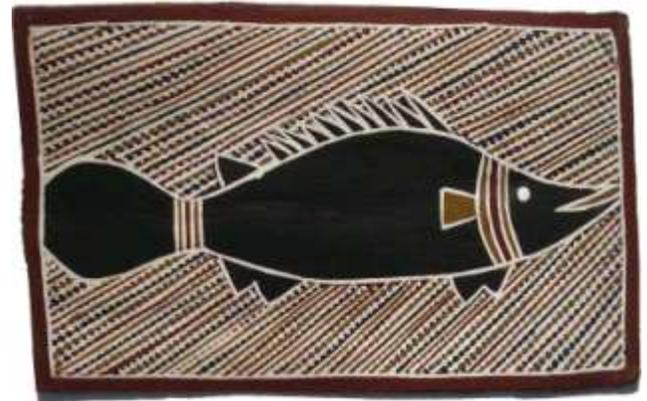
Peter Datjing
Barramundi Waterhole
Ochre & fixative on canvas
150 x 90 cm
LA - 4

Sandy Pascoe (b. 1971)

Sandy Pascoe is a Warrawarra man. He was born in Darwin and grew up on Garramurr, an outstation on Millingimby. He had a traditional upbringing and spent much of his childhood fishing, hunting and camping. Sandy is married to Margaret Gudumurkuwuy, who is also an artist. They have three children and three grand-children. Sandy's totem is the turtle, but he also likes painting and drawing the barramundi, which was his father's totem. He likes singing and dancing in traditional ceremonies.



Sandy Pascoe
Crocodile Skin – Warrawarra
Ochre & fixative on bark, 45 x 25 cm
LA - 5



Sandy Pascoe
Barramundi
Ochre & fixative on bark, 30 x 20 cm
LA - 6



Sandy Pascoe
Fish Trap
Ochre & fixative on bark, 43 x 27 cm
LA - 7

Wendy Galanini & David Djarrka (b. 1959 & 1964)

David Djarrka and his wife Wendy Galanini Yunupingu collaborate on Mokuy carvings. They collect the wood together, discuss the story and the form the carving will take. David generally carves the wood while Galanini will paint it. The artists have the authority to paint and carve the stories of their grandparents, parents, brother and sisters. Mokuy are ghosts or spirit beings. Different Mokuy belong to different clans and have unique personalities. David and Wendy can only carve the Mokuy that belong to their clans.

David describes his artistic process in this way. "I close my eyes and think about the Mokuy dahwu (story). These stories are passed down from our ancestors and are real for Yolngu people. I see him as the story describes and I carve and paint how he appears to me, big or small, with dots, or dressed in feathers for ceremony, red, black, white and yellow colours. "



From Left - Right

Dhupi Mokuy III 51 x 5 cm LA – 9

Dhupi Mokuy II 74 x 5 cm LA – 10

Djirrididi Mokuy I 72 x 5 cm LA – 11

Djirrididi Mokuy IV 87 x 5 cm LA – 12

Nandi Mokuy (Mother Spirit) 64 x 5 cm LA -13

Djirrididi Mokuy III 79 x 5 cm LA - 14

Jeremiah Bonson (b. 1982)

Jeremiah Bonson an accomplished painter and print maker regularly makes music playing the yidaki for ceremonies was born in 1982 in Darwin. He grew up in an outstation near Maningrida called Gamourgouyura, his mother's land. Bonson was taught by his parents to respect and protect his mother's land, his clan's creation stories and the carvings and paintings that represent them. He is best known for his carvings of the Mimi spirit, the Wirrah Bun Bun. This spirit is Jeremiah's mother's totem and by carving it according to the strict style passed on to him, he is keeping the clan traditions alive.

Jeremiah is the 2011 26th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory winner.



Jeremiah Bonson
Wirra Bun Bun
Acrylic on cottonwood

114 x 10 cm LA - 15
102 x 11.5 cm LA - 16
90 x 11 cm LA - 17
69 x 11 cm LA - 18

Judy Manany (b. 1962)

Judy Manany Gurruwiwi was born in Yirrkala and moved to Elcho Island in 1981. Her clan is Galpu and Moiety is Dhuwa. At the age of 10 she began to learn from her father while she assisted him. She works in various mediums and her totems are python, file snake, water lilies and bidum. The dots in my work are Dhuwa patterns which represent the rainbow and file snake. The rrank (cross hatch patterns) represent fresh water.

In February 2010 Judy participated in the Yuta Badayala (New Light) project and exhibition. Yuta Badayala (New Light) is the product of a joint project between Sydney based design company, Koskela, and Yolngu women fibre artists working with Elcho Island Arts in North East Arnhem Land. The aim of the project was to give Yolngu women the opportunity to transfer their traditional weaving techniques and designs onto new forms like woven lampshades and hand-printed textiles, so that long-held cultural practices and art making skills could be seen 'in a new light'. Judy has exhibited across Australia and her artworks are included in major public and private collections.



Judy Manany
Cabbage Palm
Acrylic on canvas, 57 x 66 cm
LA - 19



Judy Manany
Gulwirri
Acrylic on canvas, 51 x 65 cm
LA - 20



Judy Manany
Cabbage Palm Leaf
Acrylic on canvas, 77 x 57 cm
LA - 21



Judy Manany
Ngathi (Long Black Ants)
Acrylic on canvas, 56 x 76 cm
LA - 22

Richard Gandhuwuy (b. 1940)

Richard Gandhuwuy was born at Millingimbi Community during World War II and resides at Dhambala Homeland on Elcho Island, where he lives with wives, Nancy Gudaltji, Margaret Dhorrpuy and their children. He tells creation and dreaming stories through a range of mediums including bark painting, carving, paintings on canvas, paper and bodies and screen printing. Taught to paint traditional stories by his father, Djunmal, when he was around 18 years of age, he is committed to creating artworks which tell stories from traditional ceremony, song and dance and the patterns of alliances between different Dhuwa moiety clans.

In August of 2009 he was awarded the 26th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory and 2010 was a finalist.



Richard Gandhuwuy
Water hole at Garriyak
Acrylic on bark, 130 x 33 cm
LA - 23



Richard Gandhuwuy
Sacred Waterhole
Acrylic on bark, 112 x 36 cm
LA - 24

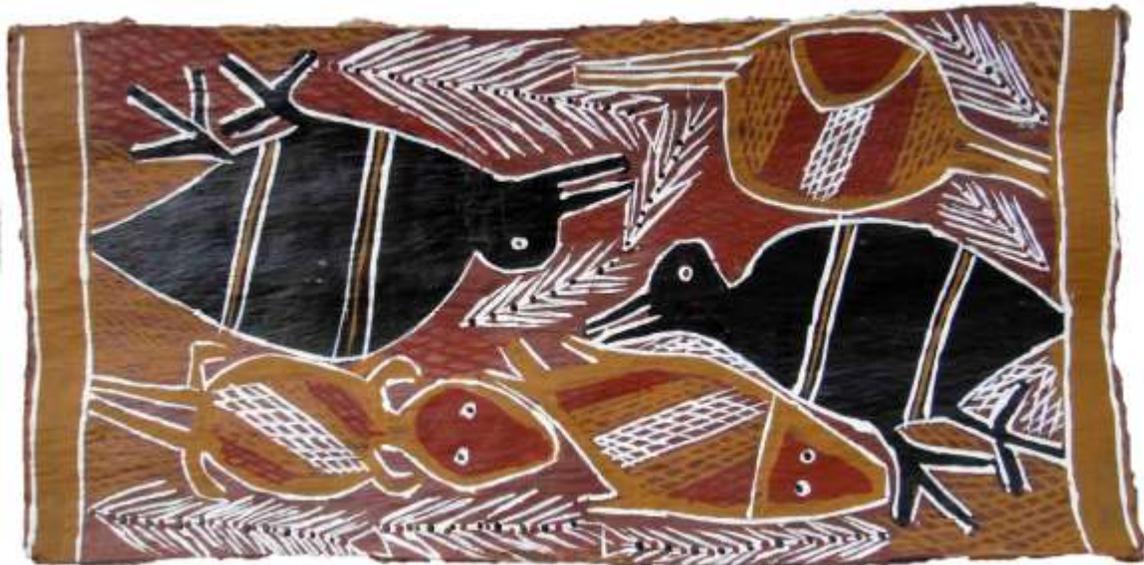


Richard Gandhuwuy
Djangkawa Sisters Waterhole
Acrylic on wood, 135 x 35 cm
LA - 25

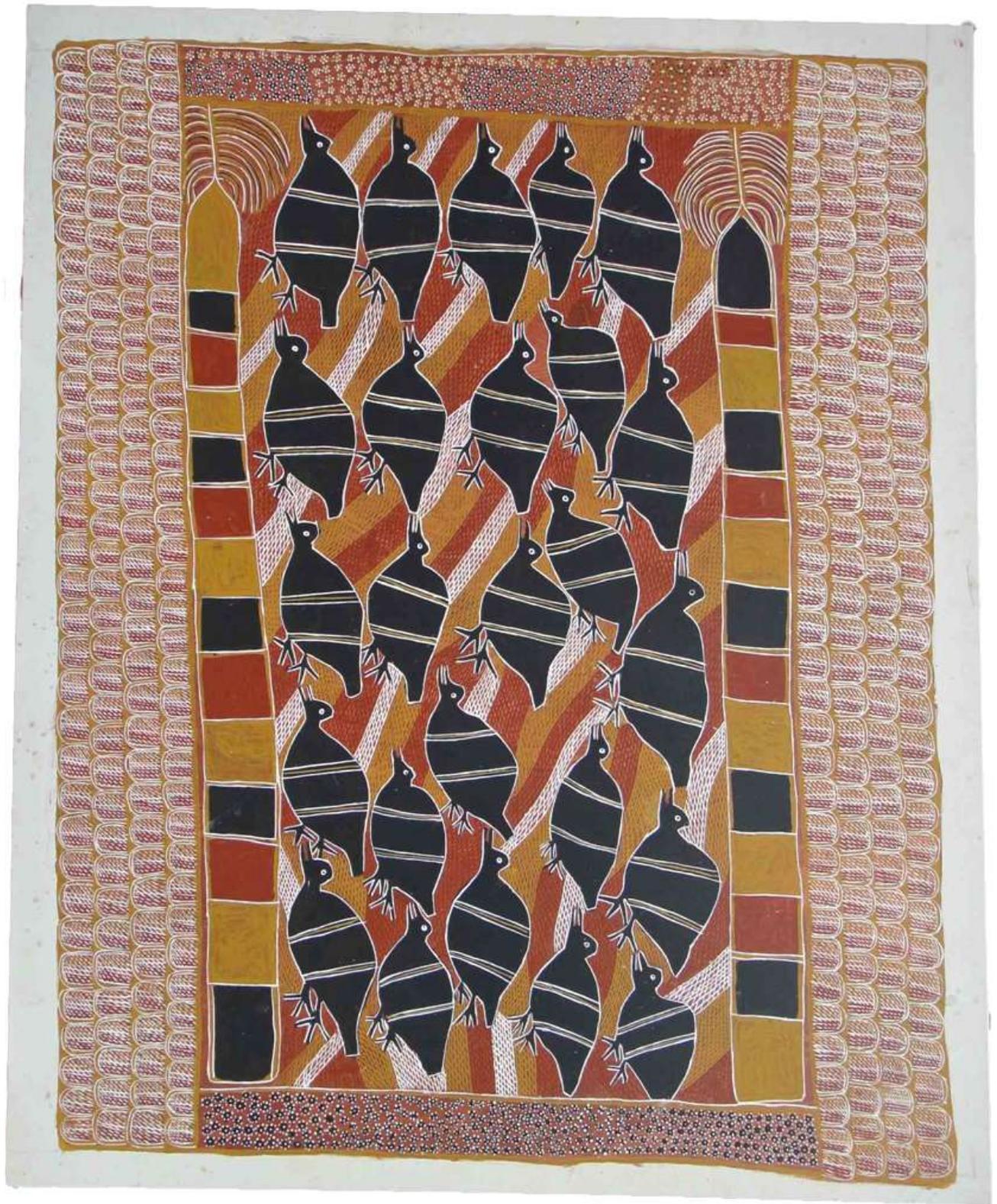
Linda Namilyal Bopirri (b. 1927)

Namilyal Bopirri was born in 1929 at Djilinginimir in north-eastern Arnhem Land. She is of the Galwanuk-Liyagalawumirr people and was brought up in the Yolngu (traditional Aboriginal) ways. She began painting in the late 1980s when her late husband, Tony Djikululu, had a stroke and needed assistance with his bark paintings. Namilyal's quirky animals are filled with life. They often appear to be running across the bark, their eyes on the viewer as if looking behind at a pursuer. Many of Bopirri's images come from the Wagilag Sisters creation story, one of the most important creation myths of this region: her itchy caterpillars, bush foods and snakes are all elements of this story. Her country, Guruwana, is often painted in the minimalist sacred rocks design. Other favourite subjects include Wayanaka, oyster beds, which are features of her rocky salt-water country east of Ramingining on the mainland side of Huchinson Strait.

Her work is part of numerous collections including the Aboriginal Art Museum in The Netherlands, Linden Museum, Stuttgart, Germany, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra and private collections throughout Australia, France and Canada.



Linda Namilyal Bopirri
Two Wak (Crows)
Ochre & fixative on bark, 25 x 58 cm
LA - 8



Linda Namilyal Bopirri
Wak & Bundarrarr
Acrylic on canvas, 162 x 197 cm
LA - 26



Linda Namilyal Bopirri
Wayanaka (Oyster Beds)
Ochres with fixative on canvas
143 x 240 cm

LA - 27

SOLD



Linda Namilyal Bopirri
Witidj (Python Waterhole)
Ochre & fixative on canvas, 190 x 135 cm
LA - 28

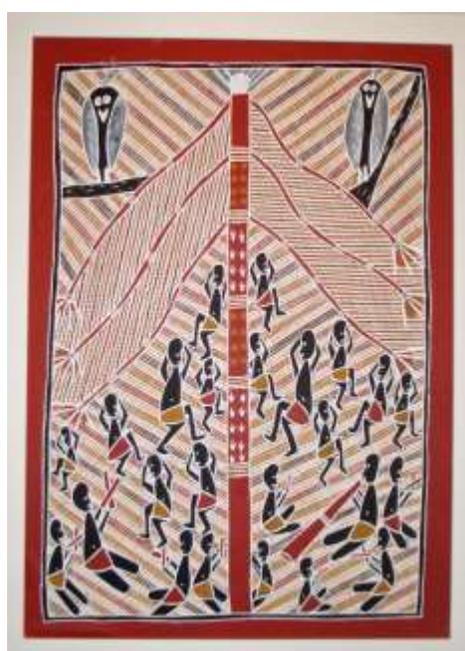
Margaret Gudumurrkuwuy (b. 1969)

Margaret Gudumurrkuwuy is known for her painting and carving skills and her past works include hollow logs, sculptures and paintings on bark and canvas, as well as more recently woven fibre works and jewelry. Margaret is a talented and experienced artist from Galiwin'ku, the main community on Elcho Island. She is married to Sandy Pascoe and together they have three children and three grandchildren.

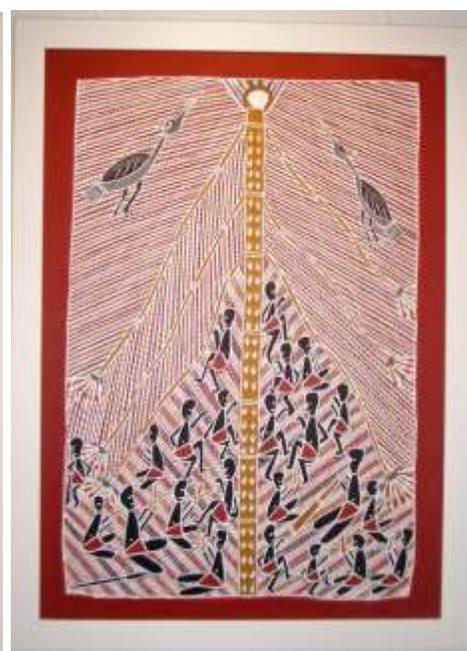
In 2009 Margaret commenced reduction woodcut printmaking with printmakers from Basil Hall Editions. Her work included in the Elcho Elements exhibition depicts the salt water currents found in the waterways surrounding Elcho Island.



Margaret Gudumurrkuwuy
Morning Star Bungul I
Acrylic on canvas, 80 x 56 cm
LA – 29



Margaret Gudumurrkuwuy
Morning Star Bungul II
Acrylic on canvas, 80 x 56 cm
LA – 30



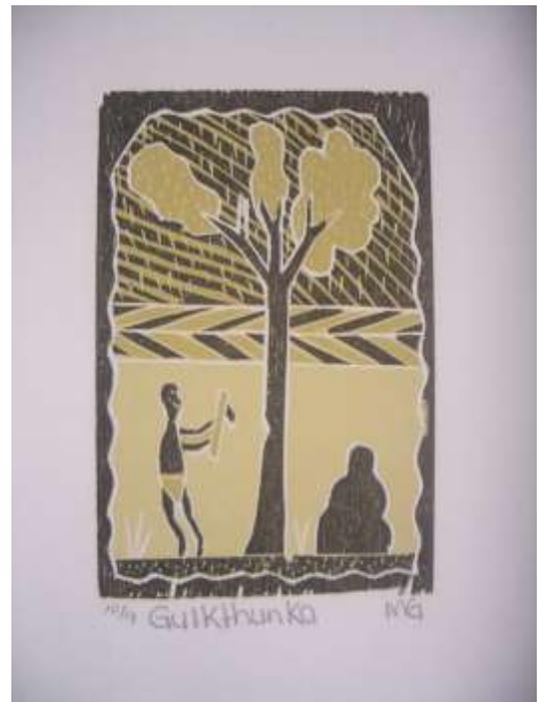
Margaret Gudumurrkuwuy
Morning Star Bungul (Dance)
Acrylic on canvas, 80 x 57 cm
LA – 31



Margaret Gudumurrkuwuy
Buffalo Story
Ink on paper, Print set of 6, 19 x 28 cm
LA - 32



Margaret Gudumurrkuwuy
Brolga Story
Ink on paper, Print set of 6, 19 x 28 cm
LA - 33



Margaret Gudumurrkuwuy
Bark Story
Ink on paper, Print set of 6, 19 x 28 cm
LA - 34



Megan Djuramalwuy Yunupingu
Medicine Lady
Ochre & acrylic on wood, 67 x 10 cm

LA - 35

SOLD



Judy Manany
Cabbage Palm Hollow Log
Ochre & fixative on wood, 60 cm

LA - 36

SOLD



Margaret Gudumurrkuwuy
Catfish & Barramundi
Ochre & acrylic on wood, 63 x 11 cm

LA - 37

SOLD



Judy Manany
Rock Cod
Pandanas & natural dyes, 40 x 20 cm
LA - 38



Dorothy Wirritjwirritj
Pandanas Basket
Pandanas & natural dyes, 25 x 30 cm
LA - 39



Sandy Pascoe
Water Current I (Gupu)
Ink on paper, 35 x 45 cm
LA - 40



Sandy Pascoe
Water Current III (Gupu)
Ink on paper, 35 x 45 cm
LA - 41



Sandy Pascoe
Water Current IV (Gupu)
Ink on paper, 35 x 45 cm
LA - 42



Richard Gandhuwuy
Chest Design
Ink on paper, 58 x 42 cm
LA - 43

We are pleased to answer any queries on these works.



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With Special Thanks To

