

TELSTRA NATSIAA

2026 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards



**Celebrate Indigenous Art
2026 Finalist Preview**

TELSTRA NATSIAA

It is a pleasure to share with you this exclusive preview of all the 2026 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award (Telstra NATSIAA) finalists.

Now in its 43rd year, Telstra NATSIAA continues to celebrate the exceptional talent and cultural strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists from across the continent. As Australia's longest running and most prestigious Indigenous art award, Telstra NATSIAA has played a pivotal role in shaping the country's cultural landscape and elevating First Nations artistic expression.

This year's exhibition features 64 remarkable works selected from 221 entries. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art is a vital part of the social and cultural life of Australia, and this year's finalists offer a compelling snapshot of contemporary art that speaks to continuing traditions, urgent social concerns and enduring connections to Country.

This dynamic and deeply moving exhibition has been shaped by the rigour and thoughtful consideration of the 2026 Telstra NATSIAA selection panel and this year's guest curator, Dr. Shannon Brett.

The 2026 judges, Yhonnie Scarce, Julie Gough and Warraba Weatherall, were tasked with selecting the winners of the major award, the Telstra Art Award, and six category awards. The seven award winners will be announced at the NATSIAA Award Ceremony at MAGNT, Bullocky Point on Friday 7th August 2026.

Acknowledgement

The Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Country on which these Awards are exhibited and celebrated. We extend our acknowledgement to all Traditional Owners of Country and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Advisory Notes

Audiences are advised that some artworks in this gallery include discussion and depictions of colonial violence and death. This content may be disturbing to some visitors. Viewer discretion is advised.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visitors are advised that this exhibition contains the names of people who are deceased.

**MUSEUM
AND ART
GALLERY**
NORTHERN
TERRITORY

Principal Partner





Adrian Jangala Robertson

born 1962

Warlpiri language

lives Mparntwe / Alice Springs, NT

When I was a stockman, me and my sister Julie, in Yalpirakinu

2026

stoneware clay, underglaze, oxide,

clear glaze, sgraffito

33 x 30 x 1 cm

Enquiry: Bindi Mwerre Anthurre

Artists

bindiart@lifestylesolutions.org.au



Anniebell Marrngamarrnga

born 1968

Kuninjku and Gun-nartpa

languages

lives Maningrida / Ji-balbal

Outstation, NT

Kubumi 2026

pandanus (*Pandanus spiralis*) and

bush cane (*Flagellaria indica*)

126 x 130 x 4 cm

Enquiry: Maningrida Arts & Culture

arts.manager@bawinanga.org.au



Allery Sandy

born 1955

Yindjibarndi language

lives Mingullatharndo Community
(5 Mile), WA

Ngarndu Ngurra (My Country)

2026

synthetic polymer paint and
Pilbara earth on canvas
150 x 200 x 3 cm

Enquiry: Yinjaa-Barni Art
manager@yinjaa-barni.com.au



Arnhem Land Collaborative

Milingimbi Art and Culture
(Milingimbi Community)

Gapuwiyak Culture and Arts
(Gapuwiyak Community)

Maningrida Arts and Culture
(Maningrida Community)

Bula'bula Arts (Ramingining
Community)

***Queen quilt* 2025**

pandanus, kurrajong bark and
natural dyes

220 x 190 x 2 cm

Enquiry: Bula'bula Arts
info@bulabula.com.au

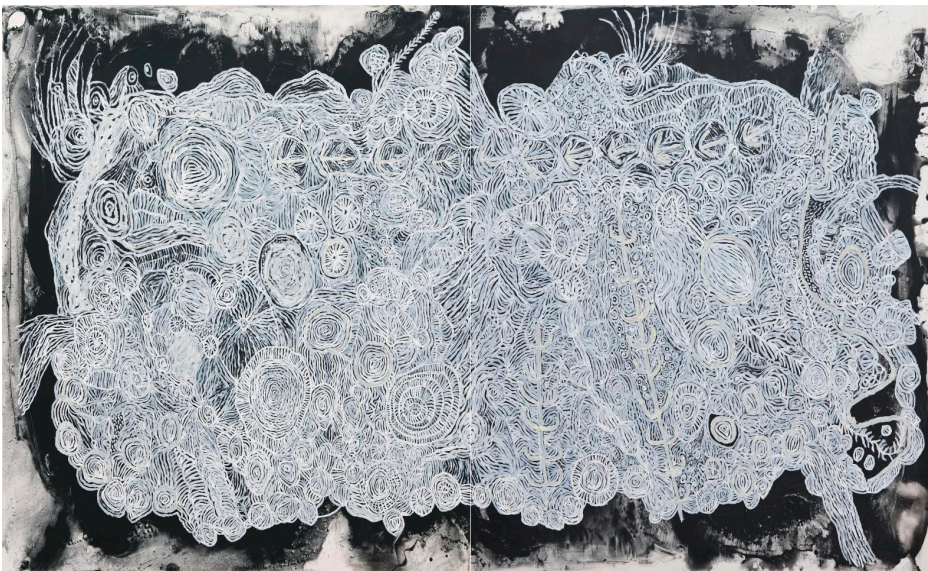


Artists of Ampilatwatja

Rita Pitjara Beasley, born 1952
 Elizabeth Ngwarraye Bonney, born 1966
 Nancy Pitjara Frank, born 1947
 Valerie Kemarre Lewis, born 1979
 Alyawarre language
 live Ampilatwatja, NT

***“arlertek arelh akngerr rnem
 arlertek apmer” Strong women
 strong Country*** 2026
 lino print on paper
 130 x 48 x 5 cm

Enquiry: Artists of Ampilatwatja
artists@ampilatwatja.com



Betty Muffler
 born 1944
 Pitjantjatjara language
 lives Indulkana, SA

***Ngangkari Ngura (Healing
 Country)*** 2026
 synthetic polymer paint and oil
 stick on board
 125 x 244 x 2 cm

Enquiry: Iwantja Arts
info@iwantjaarts.com.au



Barayuwa Mununggurr

born 1980

Miwatj language

lives Rurrarjala, NT

***The hidden reef at Yarrinya* 2025**

earth pigments on stringybark

165 x 78 x 5 cm

Enquiry: Buku-Larrngay Mulka
Centre

art@yirrkal.com



Billy Tjampitjinpa Kenda

born 1967

Luritja and Pitjantjatjara languages

lives Mparntwe / Alice Springs, NT

Lasseter lookin round

***Kaltukatjara* 2025**

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

61 x 61 x 3 cm

Enquiry: Bindi Mwerre Anthurre
Artists

bindiart@lifestylesolutions.org.au



Binyurr Wirrpanda

born 1973

Yolŋu Matha language

lives Yirrkala, NT

***The floodplain at Garraṇari* 2025**

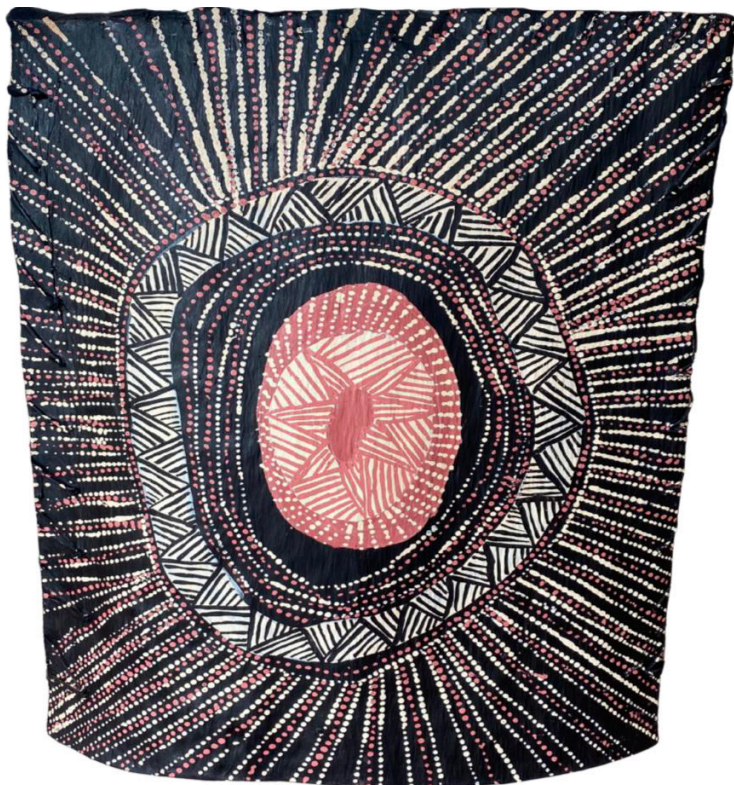
scorched and etched aluminium

road signs

285 x 245 x 35 cm

Enquiry: Buku-Larrngay Mulka
Centre

art@yirrkala.com



Carol Puruntatameri

born 1959

Tiwi language

lives Pirlangimpi, Melville Island,
NT

***Yipali and Purrukupali* 2026**

stringybark, kurrajong bark, earth

pigments with synthetic binder

70 x 50 x 24

Enquiry: Munupi Arts & Crafts
Association

manager@munupiar.com



Cameron Kawurlkku

born 1986

Ndjébbana and Kuninjku

languages

lives Maningrida, NT

***Djomi* 2025**

stringybark (Eucalyptus

tetradonta) with earth pigments

and PVA fixative

98 x 24 x 2 cm

Enquiry: Maningrida Arts & Culture

arts.manager@bawinanga.org.au



Colin Heenan-Puruntatameri

born 1995

Tiwi language

lives Milikapiti, NT

***Ngirramini Ngini Amparruwu*
(The story of the widow) 2026**

single-channel video, 3:00

minutes

L-R: 53 x 6 x 4; 68 x 10 x 2 cm

Enquiry: Jilamara Arts and Crafts
Association

coordinator@jilamaraarts.org.au



Darryl Dempster

born 1977

Noongar language

lives Perth, WA

***Born into blue* 2026**

synthetic polymer paint, oil stick,
paint pen and ink on cotton-linen
220 x 140 x 2 cm

Enquiry: talei.mackenzie@rockybay.org.au



Frank Young

born 1949

Pitjantjatjara language

lives Amata, SA

***Urrtjanpa* 2026**

synthetic polymer paint on
Belgian linen
199 x 122 x 3 cm

Enquiry: frankyoung60@outlook.com



Fiona Pompey

born 1975

Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara
languages

lives Fregon, SA

Tali Ngura (Sandhill Country)

2026

297 x 199 x 3 cm

Enquiry: [fionapompey5031@
gmail.com](mailto:fionapompey5031@gmail.com)



George Cooley

born 1953

Yanyuwa language

lives Coober Pedy, SA

It's not a hard place 2026

synthetic polymer paint on board
182 x 300 x 2 cm

Enquiry: gcooleyucc@gmail.com



Graham Tipungwuti

born 1962

Tiwi language

lives Wurrumiyanga, Bathurst
Island, NT

***Pajungwani (Death)* 2026**

earth pigments, synthetic binder,
black and white gesso primer, on
locally sourced stringybark
53 x 157 x 6 cm

Enquiry: art@ngaruwanajirri.org.au



Gurruwuy Murrinyina

born 1975

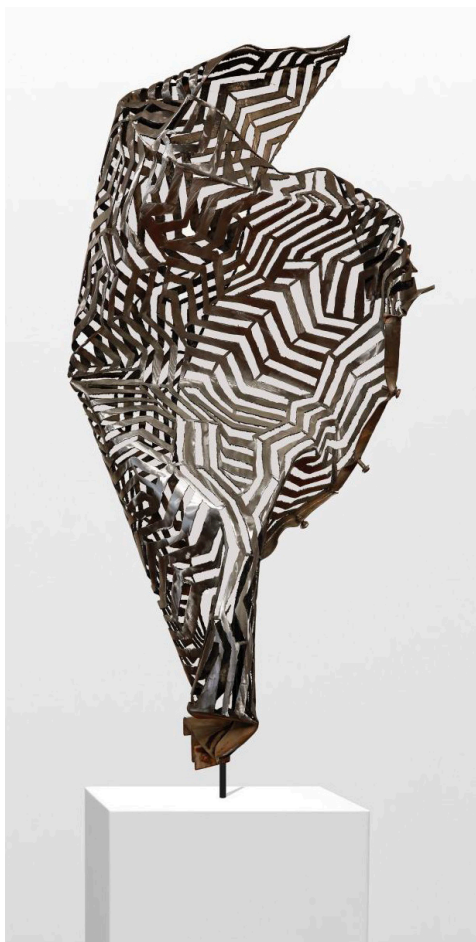
Yolŋu Matha language

lives Gäŋgan, NT

***Prismatic arc* 2026**

earth pigments on stringybark
hollow pole
285 x 30 x 30 cm

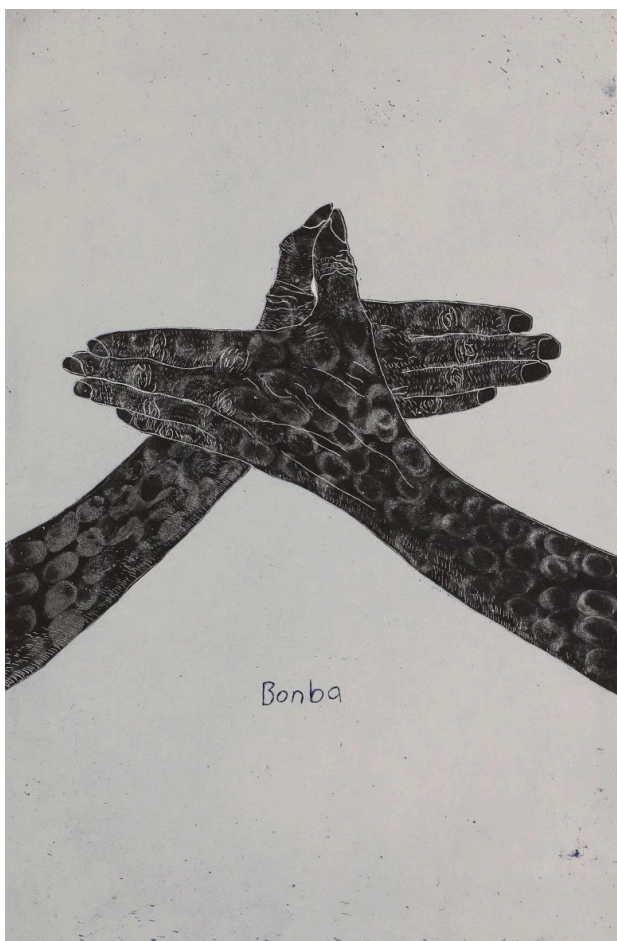
Enquiry: Buku-Larrŋgay Mulka
Centre
art@yirrkala.com



Gunybi Ganambarr
 born 1973
 Yolŋu Matha language
 lives Gäṅgan, NT

***Resolution* 2025**
 plasma-cut stainless steel
 177 x 80 x 56 cm

Enquiry: Buku-Larrngay Mulka
 Centre
art@yirrkala.com



Gutinjarra Yunupingu
 born 1997
 Yolŋu Matha language
 lives Yirrkala, NT

***Bonba Sign Language* 2025**
 soft-ground etching, metallic
 pigment on paper
 80 x 58 x 4 cm

Enquiry: Buku-Larrngay Mulka
 Centre
art@yirrkala.com



Hariette Bryant

born 1979

Pitjantjatjara language

lives Mimili, SA

***Maralinga* 2026**

synthetic polymer paint, PVC glue

and inkjet print on found object

100 x 100 x 5 cm (overall)

Enquiry: Mimili Maku Arts

anna@mimilimaku.com



Iluwanti Ken

born 1944

Pitjantjatjara language

lives Amata, SA

***Walawuru Tjukurpa – The story of the eagles* 2025**

synthetic polymer paint on

Belgian linen

198 x 152 x 3 cm

Enquiry: Illuwanti@proton.me



Ian Rictor

born 1962

Pitjantjatjara language

lives Tjuntjuntjara Community, WA

Tuwan, Kupanya munu

Miramiratjara 2025

synthetic polymer paint on

Belgian linen

200 x 290 x 3 cm

Enquiry: Spinifex Arts Project

studio@spinifexartsproject.org.au



Ishmael Marika

born 1990

Yolŋu Matha language

lives Yirrkala, NT

Dämbumiriw Miyapunumalanyha

(Four turtles) 2025

etched aluminium road sign

90 x 60 x 4 cm

Enquiry: Buku-Larrngay Mulka
Centre

art@yirrkala.com



**Janet Marawarr and
Zora Mukumiri**
born 1962 and 1990
Kuninjku language
lives Maningrida, NT

***Mankorlod sari* 2025**
lino print on handwoven Indian silk
300 x 120 x 150 cm

Enquiry: Maningrida Arts & Culture
arts.manager@bawinanga.org.au



Jenna Mayilema Lee
born 1992
Larrakia, KarraJarri and Wardaman
languages
lives Melbourne, Vic

***Taking back taken* 2026**
printed paper maps, book-binding
thread, archival glue, wire
54 x 150 x 13 (overall)

Enquiry: jennamae.lee@gmail.com



Janet Marawarr
born 1962
Kuninjku language
lives Maningrida, NT

Ngaldjorlhbo (Mother of everything) 2026
fibre-tipped pen on cotton paper
57 x 57 x 3 cm (each)

Enquiry:



Jennifer Kemarre Martiniello
OAM
born 1949
Lower Southern Arrernte language
lives Canberra, ACT

My heritage hu: Chinese Gardens at Hookeys Waterhole
2025
42 x 80 x 22 cm (overall)

Enquiry: kemarre49@gmail.com



Joe Guymala
born 1969
Kunwinjku language
lives Gunbalanya, NT

***Nawake* 2025**
synthetic polymer paint on paper
158 x 224 x 2 cm (overall)

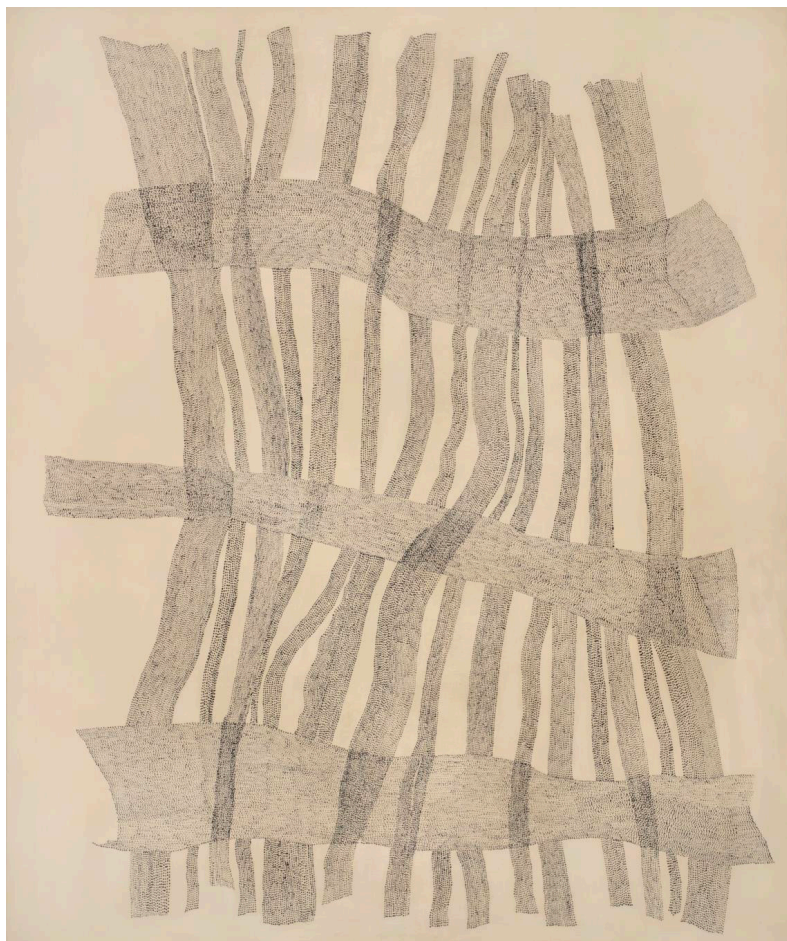
Enquiry: Injalak Arts Centre
studio@injalak.com

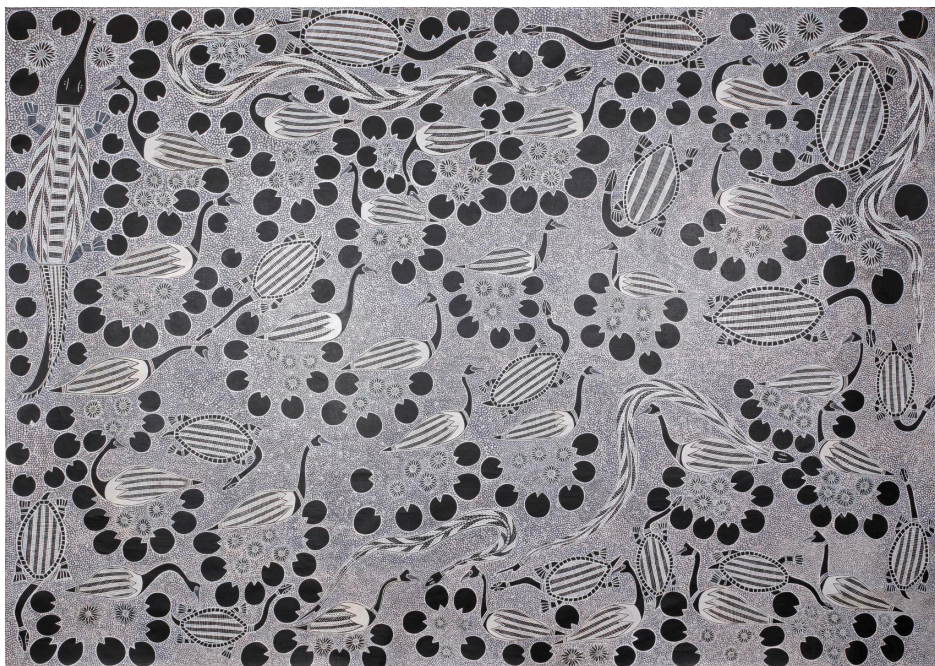


Julie Nangala Robertson
born 1973
Warlpiri language
lives Yuendumu, NT

***Mina Mina Jukurrpa* 2026**
synthetic polymer paint on linen
152 x 122 x 2 cm

Enquiry: info@warlu.com





Johnny Warrkatja Malibirr

born 1970

Ganalbingu language

lives Gapuwiyak, NT

Gurruwiling – Arafura Swamp

2025

synthetic polymer paint on linen

140 x 198 x 2 cm

Enquiry: Gapuwiyak Culture & Arts

contact@gapuwiyak.com.au



Justine Anderson

born 1987

Pitjantjatjara language

lives Apatula (Finke), NT

Magic birds 2026

wool, raffia and tjanpi

45 x 120 x 100 cm

Enquiry: [justineanderson5031@](mailto:justineanderson5031@gmail.com)

[gmail.com](mailto:justineanderson5031@gmail.com)



Karen Rogers
 born 1965
 Ngalakgan language
 lives Ngukurr, NT

***Gu Fijing Gada Old Femili* 2026**
 synthetic polymer paint on cotton
 canvas
 200 x 200 x 1 cm

Enquiry: Ngukurr Arts
info@ngukurrarts.com



Kenan Namunjdja
 born 1989
 Kuninjku language
 lives Maningrida, NT

***Kabbari Ngalyod* 2026**
 earth pigments and PVA fixative on
 stringybark
 160 x 70 x 5 cm

Enquiry: Maningrida Arts & Culture
arts.manager@bawinanga.org.au



Ken Wayne Kantilla

born 1967

Tiwi language

lives Wurrumiyanga, Bathurst
Island, NT

***Mirripakama (Rough seas)* 2026**

earth pigments and synthetic
medium on stringybark
99 x 71 x 10 cm

Enquiry: Ngaruwanajirri Art Centre
manager@ngaruwanajirri.org.au



Kevin 'Sooty' Welsh

born 1956

Wayilwan language

lives Wayilwan/Coonamble, NSW

***Scarred* 2026**

stoneware ceramics
L-R: 46 x 16 x 16; 55 x 19 x 20;
34 x 12 x 12 cm

Enquiry: sootyceramics@gmail.
com



LeShaye Swan

born 2001

Yankunytjatjara language

lives Adelaide, SA

***Bucket Well* 2026**

ceramics

L-R: 60 x 20 x 18; 80 x 23 x 21 cm

Enquiry: leshayeswan99@gmail.com



Marlene Gilson

born 1944

Wadawurrung language

lives Gordon, Vic

***Djilang - Geelong* 2026**

synthetic polymer paint on linen

70 x 100 x 4 cm

Enquiry: barryjamesgilson@gmail.com



Louise Robertson

born 1984

Warlpiri language

lives Mparntwe / Alice Springs, NT

***Birds on Country* 2026**

wool and cotton thread on woollen blanket

93 x 90 x 20 cm

Enquiry: Yarrenyty Arlttere Artists

yalc.art@tangentyere.org.au



Michelle Anderson

born 1986

Pitjantjatjara language

lives Tjuntjuntjara Community, WA

***Kanpala* 2026**

synthetic polymer paint on Belgian linen

230 x 200 x 3 cm

Enquiry: Spinifex Arts Project

studio@spinifexartsproject.org.au



Napuarri Marawili

born 1967

Yolngu Matha language

lives Yilpara, NT

***Djambatj – Deadly hunter* 2025**

earth pigments on wood

L-R: 92 x 9 x 7.5; 70 x 9.5 x 7.5 cm

Enquiry: Buku-Larrnggay Mulka
Centre

art@yirrkala.com



Reginald Sultan

born 1955

Kaytetye language

lives Darwin, NT

***Coniston Station massacre* 2025**

88 x 146 x 5 cm

Enquiry: reginaldsultan06@gmail.com



The Donovan Sisters

Ngarlaa Donovan, born 2012
 Ngayan Donovan, born 2014
 Ngintaka Donovan, born 2015
 Adnyamathanha, Luritja, Lower
 Southern Arrernte and
 Gumbaynggirr languages
 live Port Augusta, SA

Grain of knowledge 2026
 film, 26 seconds

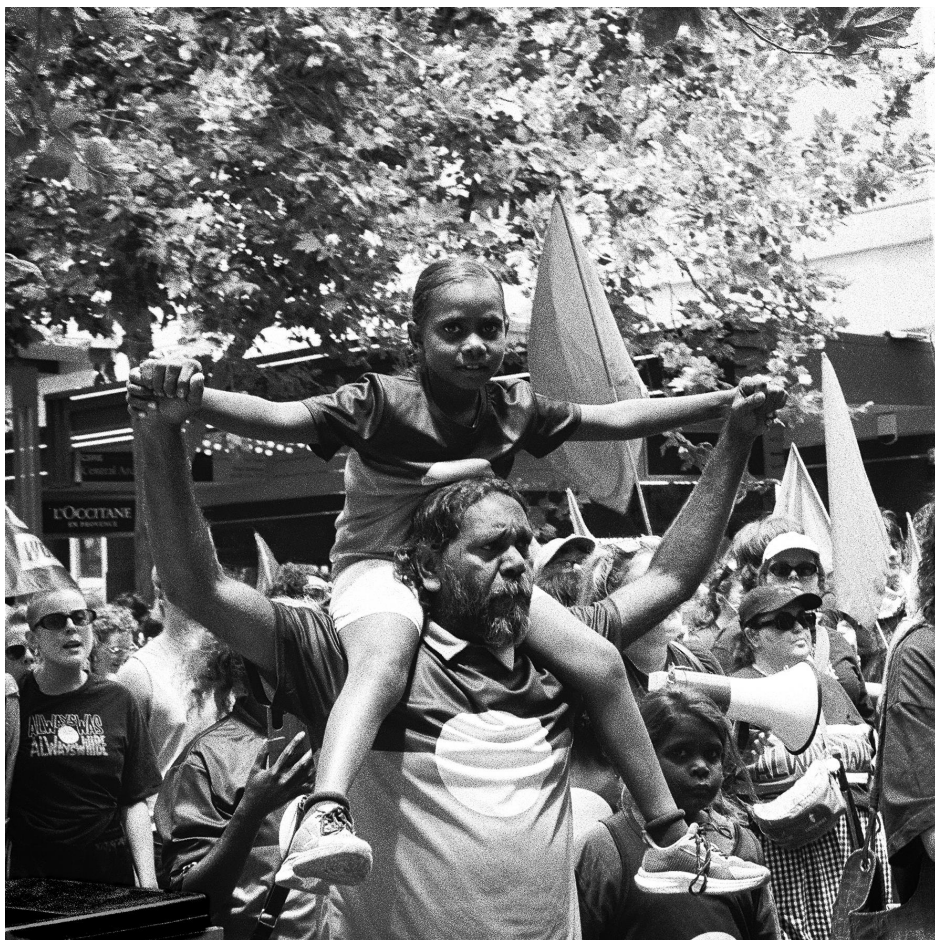
Enquiry: Juanellamckenzie3@gmail.com



Rena Ngalinggama Guyula
 born 1976
 Djambarrpuyngu language
 lives Gapuwiyak, NT

Gay'wu (String bag) 2026
 balgurr (kurrajong) bark and
 traditional dye
 92 x 35 x 2 cm

Enquiry: [Gapuwiyak Culture & Arts
 contact@gapuwiyak.com.au](mailto:Gapuwiyak Culture & Arts contact@gapuwiyak.com.au)



River Bali

born 2005

Gija/Kija language

lives Byford, WA

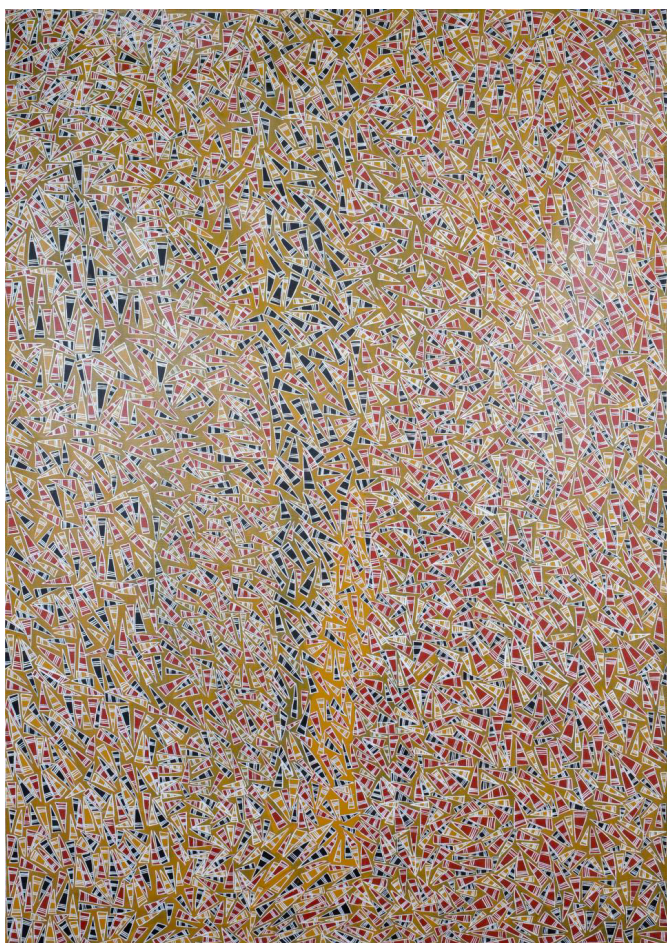
***The targets* 2026**

35mm photograph printed on

cotton paper

60 x 60 x 4 cm

Enquiry: river.bali@winyama.com.au



Russell Ngadiyali Wanapuyngu

born 1956

Wagilak language

lives Gapuwiyak, NT

***Ngilipitji* 2025**

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

198 x 140 x 2 cm

Enquiry: [Gapuwiyak Culture & Arts
contact@gapuwiyak.com.au](mailto:contact@gapuwiyak.com.au)



Robert Namarnyilk

born 1968

Kunwinjku language

lives Jabiru, NT

Marlgawa Ngerrmi Djang (Mother Country and Mother Rainbow Serpent Dreaming) 2026

102 x 153 x 1 cm

Enquiry: ccherps@iinet.net.au



Ryan Presley

born 1987

Marri Ngarr language

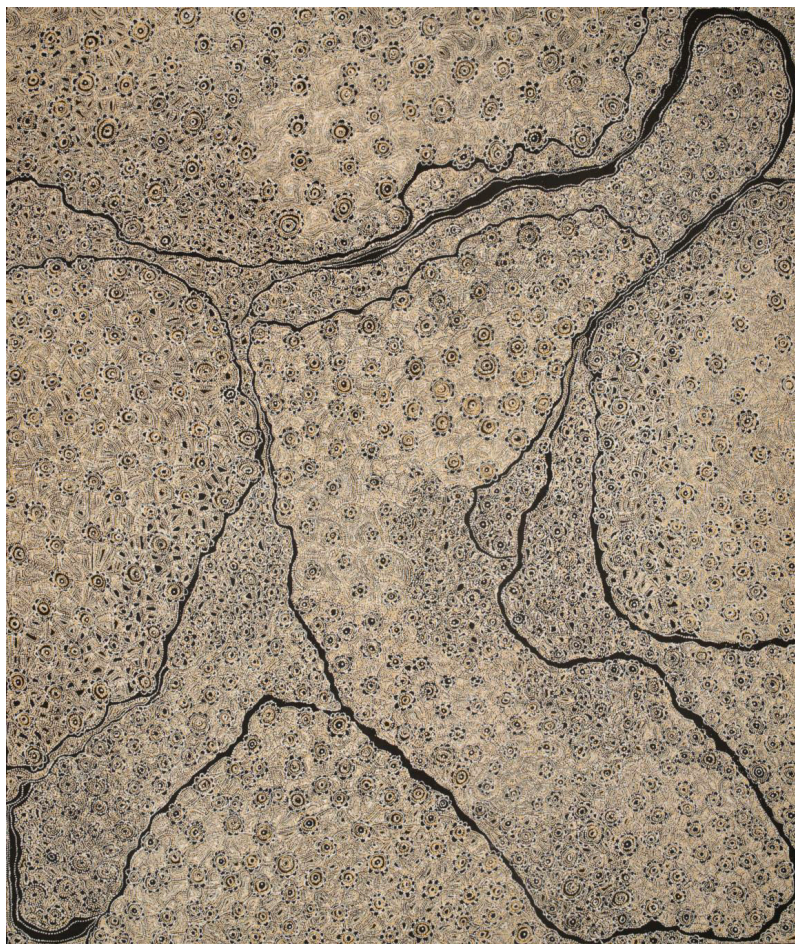
lives Logan, Qld

Our lifestyle of tranquillity undisturbed 2026

oil paint on polyester

187 x 152 x 4 cm

Enquiry: ryan.presley.studio@gmail.com



Sabrina Nangala Robertson

born 1976

Warlpiri language

lives Yuendumu, NT

Ngapa Jukurrpa (Water Dreaming) 2026

synthetic polymer paint on linen

152 x 122 x 2cm

Enquiry: info@warlu.com



Semeria Wurrkidj

born 1985

Kuninjku language

lives Maningrida, NT

Milmingkan 2025

earth pigments and PVA fixative on stringybark

141 x 51 x 2 cm

Enquiry: Maningrida Arts & Culture
arts.manager@bawinanga.org.au



Sally M Nangala Mulda

born 1957

Luritja, Pitjantjatjara, Arrernte,
Yankunytjatjara languages

lives Mparntwe / Alice Springs, NT

Three stories 2026

synthetic polymer paint on linen
76 x 153 x 4 cm

Enquiry: Tangentyere Artists
arts@tangentyere.org.au



Steven Jupurrurla Nelson

born 1978

Warlpiri language

lives Yuendumu, NT

**Janganpa Jukurrpa (Brush-tail
Possum Dreaming)** 2025

synthetic polymer paint on linen
203 x 107 x 2 cm

Enquiry: info@warlu.com



Sylvia Wilson
 born 1986
 Martu language
 lives Parnpajinya/Newman, WA

***Nan Nan (Grandmother)* 2026**
 synthetic polymer paint on linen
 152 x 76 x 3 cm

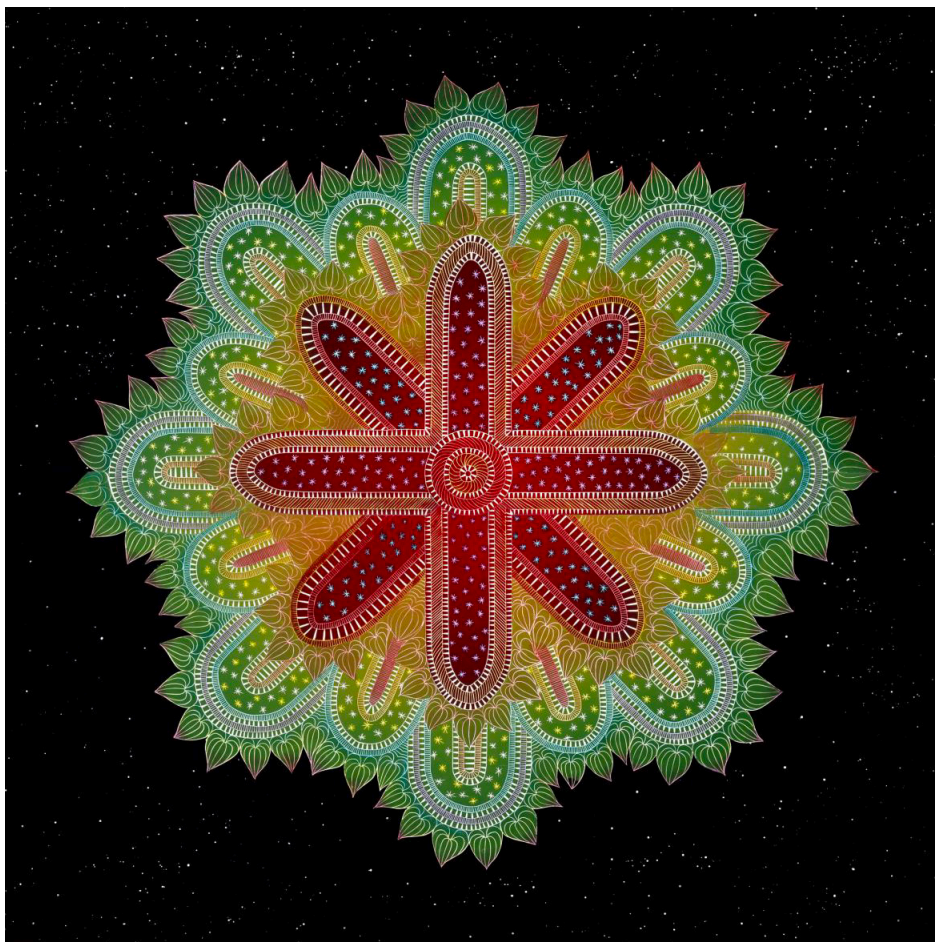
Enquiry: Martumili Artists
mmasales@eastpilbara.wa.gov.au



Tiarnie Rose Edwards
 born 1998
 Ngarrindjeri language
 lives Kurna Yarta, SA

***Alienated land* 2026**
 terracotta, gold glaze, underglaze
 and synthetic polymer paint
 55 x 41 x 36 cm

Enquiry: tiarnieedwards98@gmail.com



Teho Ropeyarn

born 1988

Angkamuthi and Yadhaykana

languages

lives Cairns, Qld

***a memorial without end ...* 2026**

ink, watercolour, vinyl-cut print on
paper

210 x 210 x 2 cm

Enquiry: Onespace

demi@onespace.com.au



Ursula Napangardi Marks

born 1979

Warlpiri language

lives Lajamanu, NT

***Digging for bush potatoes* 2026**

reclaimed car bonnet with
synthetic polymer paint, carved
wood

146 x 144 x 98 cm

Enquiry: Warnayaka Art Centre

staff@warnayaka.com



Vanessa Inkamala

born 1968

Western Aranda language

lives Mparntwe / Alice Springs, NT

Arrkurla Nukala / Lyaarta Ntema

2026

recycled road sign, gesso primer,
gouache watercolour paint, house
paint, cold wax medium
150 x 180 x 4 cm (overall)

Enquiry: Many HandsArt

studio@manyhandsart.com.au



Wanapati Yunupingu

born 1989

Yolŋu Matha language

lives Yirrkala, NT

***Ancient fire* 2025**

scorched and etched stringybark
283 x 150 x 5 cm

Enquiry: Buku-Larrnggay Mulka
Centre

art@yirrkala.com



Walter Brooks

born 1994

Tiwi language

lives Milikapiti, NT

***Wangatunga Jirtaka Jilamara
(Folded bark basket with sawfish
design)*** 2026

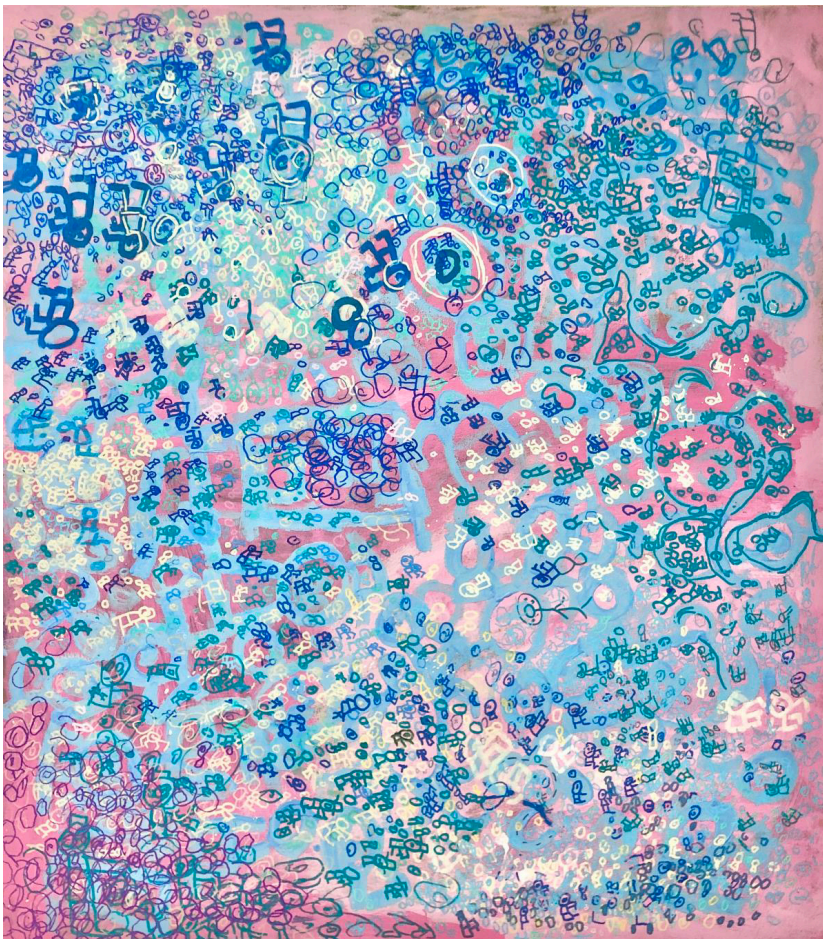
locally sourced earth pigments on
stringybark

L - R: 64 x 20 x 17; 58 x 24 x 13;

64 x 18 x 12 cm

Enquiry: Jilamara Arts and Crafts
Association

coordinator@jilamaraarts.org.au



Warren Garrawitja

born 1988

Yolŋu Matha language

lives Darwin, NT

Family (Milingimbi) 2025

synthetic polymer paint on linen

121 x 107 x 3 cm

Enquiry: Arts Access Darwin

artsaccess@

darwincommunityarts.org.au



William Mareko

born 1973

Torres Strait Creole and Kalaw

Lagaw Ya languages

lives Darwin, NT

***Torres Strait Island turtles and dugongs* 2026**

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

94 x 148 x 3 cm

Enquiry: pgt@nt.gov.au



Yalmakany Marawili

born 1957

Yolŋu Matha language

lives Yirrkala, NT

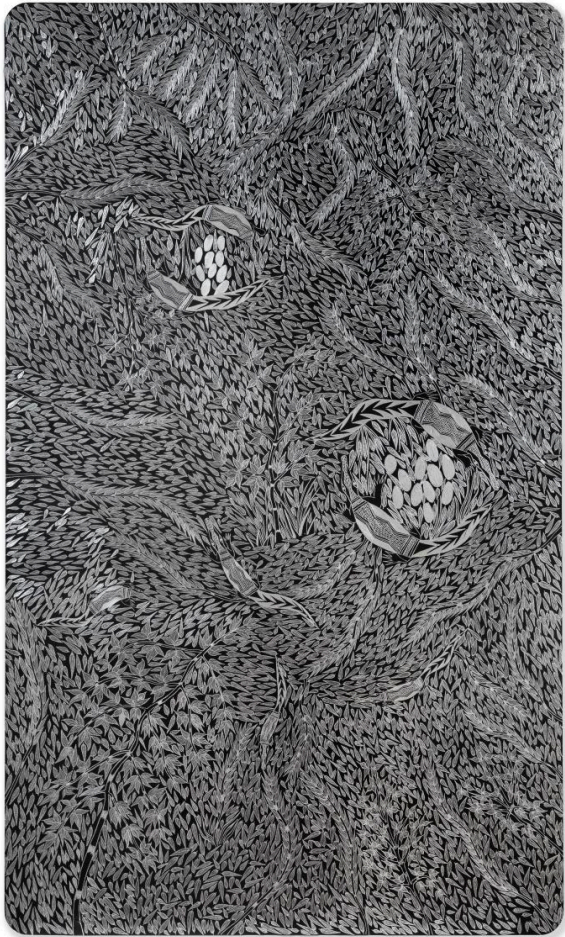
***Gon-wapitja* 2025**

earth pigments on board

200 x 200 x 5 cm

Enquiry: Buku-Larrngay Mulka
Centre

art@yirrkala.com



Wulu Marawili

born 1967

Yolṟu Matha language

lives Yirrkala, NT

***Garraṇali – Sanctuary* 2026**

aerosolised enamel paint and

etched aluminium road sign

150 x 90 x 4 cm

Enquiry: Buku-Larrngay Mulka
Centre

art@yirrkala.com



Zaachariaha Fielding

born 1991

Pitjantjatjara language

lives Adelaide, SA

***Kunta Wiya (No shame)* 2026**

synthetic polymer paint on Belgian
linen

300 x 200 x 2 cm

Enquiry: zaachariahafielding.art@
gmail.com