

NIAGARA

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WUKUN WANAMBI

Wukun Wanambi is the oldest son of Mithili Wanambi, clan leader and renowned painter who passed away in 1981. Wukun took up painting only in 1997 when he was asked to paint Trial Bay as part of the *Saltwater Country* exhibition. Wukun learnt the sacred designs of his father from elders who had kept the information in trust for him. His first painting was a depiction of Bamurrunu, a sacred, white-domed rock in the middle of Trial Bay. It was the first time the motif had been painted since his father's death. The painting won best bark at the 15th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards.

An active member of the Marrakulu clan, Wukun belongs to the Dhuwa Moiety. Wukun has continued to paint, receiving numerous accolades for his barks and poles. He works at the Buku-Larrngay Mulka Centre at Yirrkala in the Northern Territory.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Larrakitj Aboriginal Memorial Poles*, The British Museum, London
- 2008 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2005 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2004 Raft Artspace, Darwin

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 *Blue Chip XVI: The Collectors' Exhibition*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2013 *Blue Chip XV: The Collectors' Exhibition*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2011 *Where There Is Water*, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, New South Wales
- One Clan Three Hands*, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2010 *Art Shanghai*, Shanghai ArtMart, China
- Returning to Djakapurra – A Collection of Yirrkala Poles & Barks*, RedDot Fine Art Gallery, Singapore
- 27th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award*, Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 2009 *Auckland Art Fair*, New Zealand
- 2007 *Togart Contemporary Art Award (NT)*, Parliament House, Darwin
- 2006 *Yäkumirri: People Who Have a Name*, Raft Artspace, Darwin
- 23th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards*, Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- Celebrating 25 Years of Australian Art*, Artbank, Sydney and touring
- 2004 *21st National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards*, Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 2002 *19th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards*, Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 2001 *New from Old*, Annandale Galleries, Sydney
- 18th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards*, Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 1999–2001 *Saltwater: Yirrkala Bark Paintings of Sea Country*, The Drill Hall Gallery, Canberra; John Curtin Gallery, Perth; Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney; Heide Museum of Modern Art, Melbourne; The Araluen Centre, Adelaide

1998 *15th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards*, Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, Darwin

COLLECTIONS

Agapitos/Wilson Collection, Sydney
Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney
Art Gallery of Ballarat, Victoria
Art Gallery of South Australia
Lavery Collection, Sydney
Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
Sydney Opera House, New South Wales
Private Collections

AWARDS

2013 Finalist in the 2013 Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards
2010 Winner, Wandjuk Marika Three-Dimensional Memorial Award, *27th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards*, Museum and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory, Darwin
2007 People's Choice Award, *Togart Contemporary Art Award (NT)*
2004 Highly Commended in the three-dimensional works category, *21st national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards*, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin
1998 First Prize for Bark Painting, *15th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards*, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Blue Chip XVI: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2014
Blue Chip XV: The Collectors' Exhibition, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2013
Jill Stowell, 'A feast from far and wide', *Newcastle Herald*, 24 December 2011
Meryl Ryan, *Where there is water...*, exhibition catalogue, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery, New South Wales, 2012
One Clan Three Hands, exhibition catalogue, Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2011
Courtney Kidd, 'Award Winners', *Australian Art Collector*, issue 54, October – December 2010
Nicolas Rothwell, 'Revelatory show of strength in tradition', *The Australian*, 16 August 2010
'Archive project for young and old', *Artery*, no. 8, Spring 2008
Colin and Elizabeth Lavery, *Beyond Sacred*, Hardie Grant Books, Melbourne, 2008
Maurice O'Riordan, 'Confessions of a boot scooter: the Togart Contemporary Fine Art Award (NT) in Darwin', *Art Monthly Australia*, no. 206, December 2007 – February 2008
Togart Contemporary Art Award (NT), exhibition catalogue, Darwin City Waterfront, Northern Territory, 2007
Michael Reid, 'The Art Oracle', *The Age Good Weekend Magazine*, 22 October 2005
Saltwater: Yirrkala Bark Paintings of Sea Country, Buku-Larrngay Mulka Centre in association with Jennifer Isaacs Publishing, Northern Territory, 1999