



CURATORIAL+CO.

THE COLOUR OF COUNTRY

NIAF 2 - 19 JULY 2025

Cover Art: Penny Npaljarri Kelly, Wudilla (Bush Bean), 2025

Penny Napaljarri Kelly is a Waramungu and Warlmanpa woman from Tennant Creek. Born in Rockhampton Downs in the flat country on the East of Tennant Creek, not far from her homeland near Mangalawarru station. Penny is a great storyteller and with a wealth of cultural and traditional knowledge. Her paintings are informed by stories from the old people. She paints bush flowers, tuckers, meats, landscape, and traditional objects, often in a rhythmic, minimalist style.



THE COLOUR OF COUNTRY

The Colour of Country is co-curated by Nioka Lowe-Brennan, a proud Dunghutti/Gomeri woman, and Curatorial+Co.

From seven remote art centres across the Northern Territory—Galiwin'ku, Nungubuyu, Ikuntji, Arrernte, Manayingkarirra/Manawukan, Kunbarllanjna, and Jurnkkurakurr—and Girramay Country in Queensland comes *The Colour of Country*, an exhibition celebrating the richness and diversity of First Nations cultural practice.

This exhibition showcases traditional forms of art such as bark painting, pandanus and bush cane weaving, and the sculpting of clay bagu, alongside contemporary expressions using bright acrylics and repurposed metal. *The Colour of Country* speaks to the enduring connection between land, material, and story.

The artists bring to life the many colours of Country, sharing stories passed down through countless generations alongside their own personal narratives. Each artwork is a reflection of the artist's homeland and lived experience. The process of collecting materials — such as stringybark, pandanus, bush cane, ochre, natural dyes, and discarded metal — is as much a part of the artwork as the final piece itself.

The centres from which the works come are located mostly in the desert or tropical rainforest, a beautiful combination of landscapes that are mirrored in the colours the artists have used as well as differing materials that were collected from that country. Showcased are rich orange and red tones like the desert sands, while shades of pink, purple, and yellow mimic native flowers. Lush greens speak to new growth, and vibrant hues of blue reflect the essential waters that sustain and nourish both environments.

Representations of Country are also expressed through depictions of animals such as the freshwater yabby, turtle, barramundi, goanna, and stingray. It emerges in elemental forms like spiralling winds, clay pans, waterholes, desert bores, bush tucker, and medicinal plants, as well as in powerful ancestral spirits like the Rainbow Serpent.

It's an honour to provide a glimpse into their world and we are proud to present, in partnership with the National Indigenous Art Fair, the work of:

Agnes Pula Rubuntja, Ann Lane Nee Dixon, Benita Woodman, Cecilie Mopbarrmbr, Daphne Marks, Deborah Yulidjirri, Dorothy Dixon, Emily Murray (Niganday), George Beeron SNR, Gladys Lewis, Glen Namundja, Janet Tilmouth, Lindy Nungarrayi Brodie, Nancy Beeron, Paul Nabulumo Namarinjmak, Philip Denham, Penny Npaljarri Kelly, Samantha Malkudja, Seymour Wulida, Simone Namunjdja, Susan Murrungun, Joy Wilfred, Joyce Dixon, Rose Wilfred, and Virginia Wilfred.

Our deepest thanks to the art centres which made this exhibition possible:
Bula'bula Arts Aboriginal Art Centre, Numbulwar Numburindi Arts, Ikuntji Artists, Engawala Art Centre (Intiarntwa), Maningrida Arts & Culture, Injalak Arts, Barkly Regional Arts, and Girringun Aboriginal Art Centre.

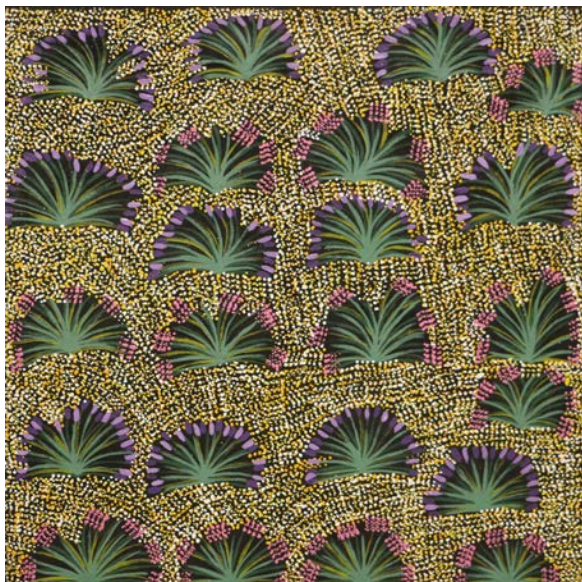
*Curatorial+Co. acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the country on which the gallery stands, the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and cultures.
We pay our respects to their Elders past, present.*



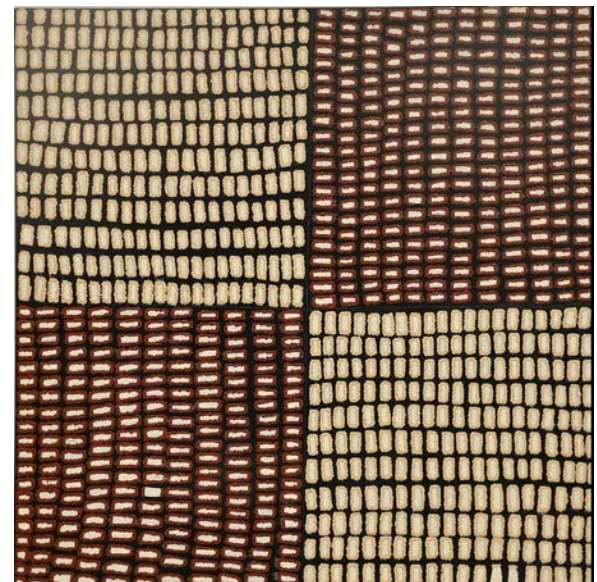
PENNY NPALJARRI KELLY
Wudilla (Bush Bean), 2025
 Acrylic on canvas
 41 x 41 cm
 AUD 330



AGNES PULA RUBUNTJA
Bush Tucker, 2024
 Acrylic on canvas
 91 x 91 cm
 AUD 2,750



BENITA WOODMAN
After Rain, 2024
 Acrylic on canvas
 61 x 61 cm
 AUD 1140



DOROTHY DIXON
Bush Tucker Dreaming, 2025
 Acrylic on canvas
 61 x 61 cm
 AUD 625



GLADYS LEWIS
Bush Medicine 2, 2025
 Acrylic on canvas
 91 x 91 cm
 AUD 1,950



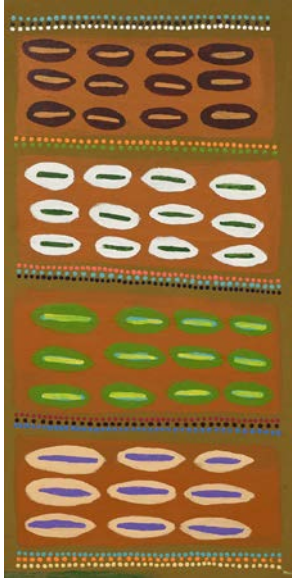
LINDY NUNGARRAYI BRODIE
Going to Darwin, Going to Tennant Creek, 2024
 Acrylic on canvas
 61 x 61 cm
 AUD 1,625



LINDY NUNGARRAYI BRODIE
Going to Darwin, Going to Tennant Creek, 2024
 Acrylic on canvas
 61 x 61 cm
 AUD 1,625



GLADYS LEWIS
Bush Medicine, 2024
 Acrylic on canvas
 31 x 41 cm
 AUD 425



PENNY NPALJARRI KELLY
Wudilla (Bush Bean), 2025
 Acrylic on canvas
 58x 29 cm
 AUD 420



CECILIE MOPBARRMBRR
Gunga Wungili (Pandanus Picture) 1, 2024
 Pandanus and natural dyes
 26 x 38 x 3 cm
 AUD 550



CECILIE MOPBARRMBRR
Gunga Wungili (Pandanus Picture) 2, 2024
 Pandanus and natural dyes
 26 x 38 x 3 cm
 AUD 550



CECILIE MOPBARRMBRR
Gunga Wungili (Pandanus Picture) 3, 2024
 Pandanus and natural dyes
 38 x 26 x 2 cm
 AUD 550



Simone is part of the next generation of young Kuninjku artists. Daughter of Pamela Namunjda, she uses a palette of black and white like other artistic family members Susan Marawarr and Carissa Gurwalwal. Working predominately in carved wooden sculptures, Namunjda uses thin and delicate branches of Kurrajong to depict manifestations of the Mimih spirit.



SIMONE NAMUNJDJA
Wak Wak 2, 2024
 Stringybark (*Eucalyptus Tetradonta*) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative
 100 x 32 cm
 AUD 1100.00



SIMONE NAMUNJDJA
Wak Wak 3, 2024
 Stringybark (*Eucalyptus Tetradonta*) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative
 86 x 21 cm
 AUD 700



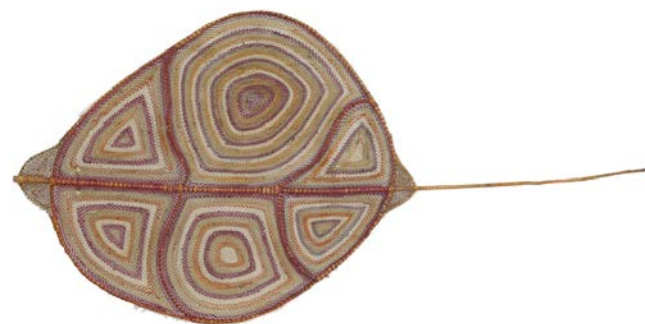
SIMONE NAMUNJDJA
Wak Wak 4, 2024
 Stringybark (*Eucalyptus Tetradonta*) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative
 85 x 23 cm
 AUD 700



SIMONE NAMUNJDJA
Wak Wak 5, 2024
 Stringybark (*Eucalyptus Tetradonta*) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative
 88 x 33.5 cm
 AUD 950



SIMONE NAMUNJDJA
Wak Wak, 2024
 Stringybark (*Eucalyptus Tetradonta*) with ochre pigment and PVA fixative
 112 x 35 cm
 AUD 1,300



SAMANTHA MALKUDJA
Nawarlah - Brown River, 2025
 Pandanus (*Pandanus Spiralis*) and bush cane (*Flagellaria Indica*) with natural dyes
 185 x 91 cm
 AUD 2,500



SAMANTHA MALKUDJA
Nawarlah - Brown River Stingray, 2025
 Pandanus (*Pandanus Spiralis*) and bush cane (*Flagellaria Indica*) with natural dyes
 81 x 147 cm
 AUD 2,200

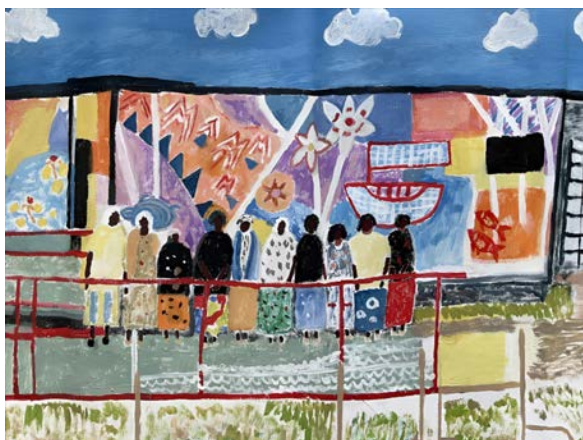


SAMANTHA MALKUDJA
Nawarlah - Brown River Stingray 1, 2025
 Pandanus (*Pandanus Spiralis*) and bush cane (*Flagellaria Indica*) with natural dyes
 67 x 166 cm
 AUD 2,200

Samantha Malkadja learned to weave from her mother Frewa Bardaluna, a master fibre artist who had numerous exhibitions with leading Australian commercial galleries. Samantha's work is distinguished by her soft tonal range, strong sense of design and intricate technique. Samantha makes panels and 2D sculptures which depict local fish and animal species and often yawkyawks, female water spirits.



*Samantha predominately uses gun-menama (*pandanus spiralis*) in her works. To prepare the pandanus the inner leaves of the plant are collected using a hook. Each V-shaped leaf is first split in half along its spine. After removing the sharp spines, the two surfaces of the leaf are then split away from other. After this preparation, the pandanus is boiled in a billycan with plant materials to dye the fibre. Like her contemporaries, Samantha only uses natural dyes and achieves enormous variation.*



SUSAN MURRUNGUN
Wurra-rramandhi-inyung, 2024
 Acrylic on canvas
 30 x 45 cm
 AUD 425



ROSE WILFRED
Inland and Sea Landscape, 2025
 Acrylic on canvas
 35 x 71 cm
 AUD 325



VIRGINIA WILFRED
My Outstation, 2025
 Acrylic on canvas
 35 x 71 cm
 AUD 295



JANET TILMOUTH
Bush Medicine, 2025
 Acrylic on canvas
 30 x 63 cm
 AUD 580



JOY TURNER,
Bush Berries, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
28 x 52 cm
AUD 450



DIANNE DIXON,
Old Crocodile, 2025
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 45 cm
AUD 275



JOY WILFRED
Numbulwar, My Home, 2024
Acrylic on car bonnet
135 x 151 x 26 cm
AUD 3,300

***“Ngilipitji is my Country, that’s where I grew up.
From Ngilipitji we went to Walker River,
walking on foot. My language is Yolngu Matha.
My clan is Wagilak on my father’s side,
Ritharrngu on my mother’s side.
My totems are wild honey and black crow.”***

~Joy Wilfred



Joy's painting is a powerful celebration of Numbulwar - its land, its sea, and its spirit. The car bonnet pulses with colour and energy, mapping a landscape both real and remembered. Myniarr (wattleseed trees) and Maguj (pandanus) rise boldly at the centre, anchoring the scene in deep ancestral knowledge...Joy creates, but she also reinvents and repurposes objects like this car bonnet. Like many in her family, she finds dead objects in the bush, the dump and on the beach, and reuses them to turn them into beautiful works of art.





PAUL NABULUMO NAMARINJMAK
Waterholes (Kubumi), 2024
 Stringybark (Eucalyptus Tetradonta) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative
 112 x 31 cm
 AUD 1,250



PAUL NABULUMO NAMARINJMAK
Yawkyawk (Ngalkunburriyaymi), 2023
 Stringybark (Eucalyptus Tetradonta) with ochre
 pigment and PVA Fixative
 127 x 32 cm
 AUD 2,100



PAUL NABULUMO NAMARINJMAK
Wak Wak 3, 2023
 Stringybark (Eucalyptus Tetradonta) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative
 122 x 37 cm
 AUD 2,200



PAUL NABULUMO NAMARINJMAK
Waterholes (Kubumi) 2, 2024
 Stringybark (Eucalyptus Tetradonta) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative
 140 x 34 cm
 AUD 2,500



SEYMOUR WULIDA
Ngalyod (Rainbow Serpent) 1, 2022
 Stringybark (Eucalyptus Tetradonta) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative 215 x 66 cm
 AUD 5,000



SEYMOUR WULIDA
Wak Wak, 2025
 Stringybark (Eucalyptus Tetradonta) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative
 81 x 42 cm
 AUD 670



SEYMOUR WULIDA
Wak Wak 2, 2025
 Stringybark (Eucalyptus Tetradonta) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative
 80 x 34 cm
 AUD 550



SEYMOUR WULIDA
Ngalyod (Rainbow Serpent) 2, 2024
 Stringybark (Eucalyptus Tetradonta) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative
 143 x 60 cm
 AUD 2,050



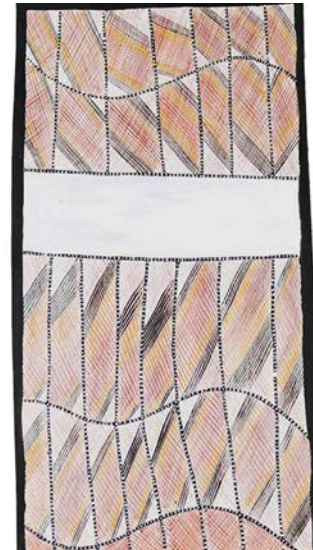
DEBORAH YULIDJIRRI
Kalawan (Goanna), 2025
 Stringybark (*Eucalyptus Tetradonta*) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative
 87 x 22 cm
 AUD 1300



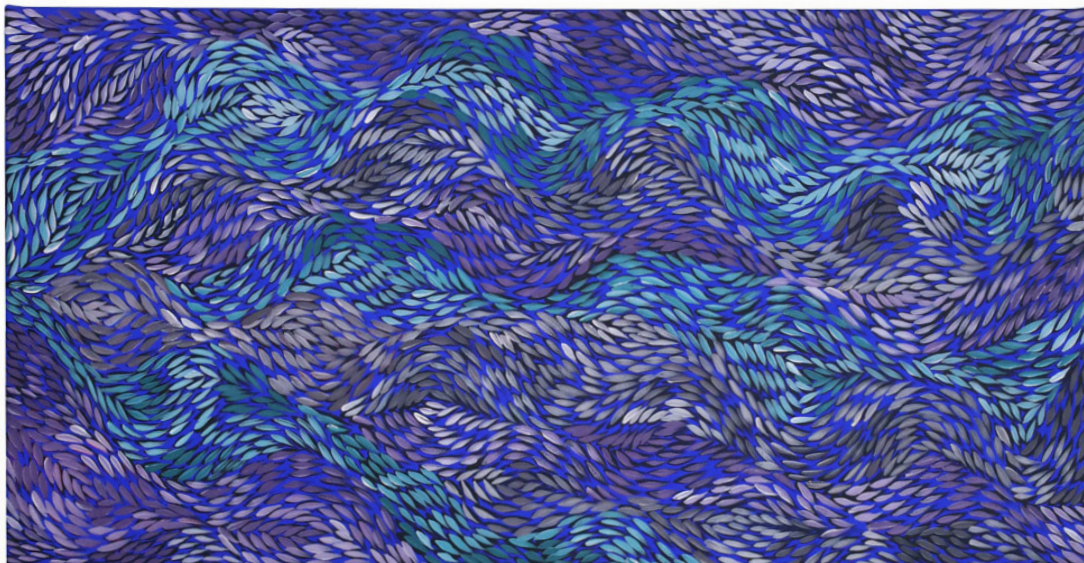
DEBORAH YULIDJIRRI
Ngalng (Freshwater Yabby), 2025
 Stringybark (*Eucalyptus Tetradonta*) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative
 90 x 30 cm
 AUD 1,670



DEBORAH YULIDJIRRI
Kunkurra (The Spiralling Wind), 2025
 Stringybark (*Eucalyptus Tetradonta*) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative
 75 x 24 cm
 AUD 1300



JOSEPHINE WURRKIDJ
Wak Wak, 2025
 Stringybark (*Eucalyptus Tetradonta*) with ochre
 pigment and PVA fixative
 112 x 45 cm
 AUD 1,200



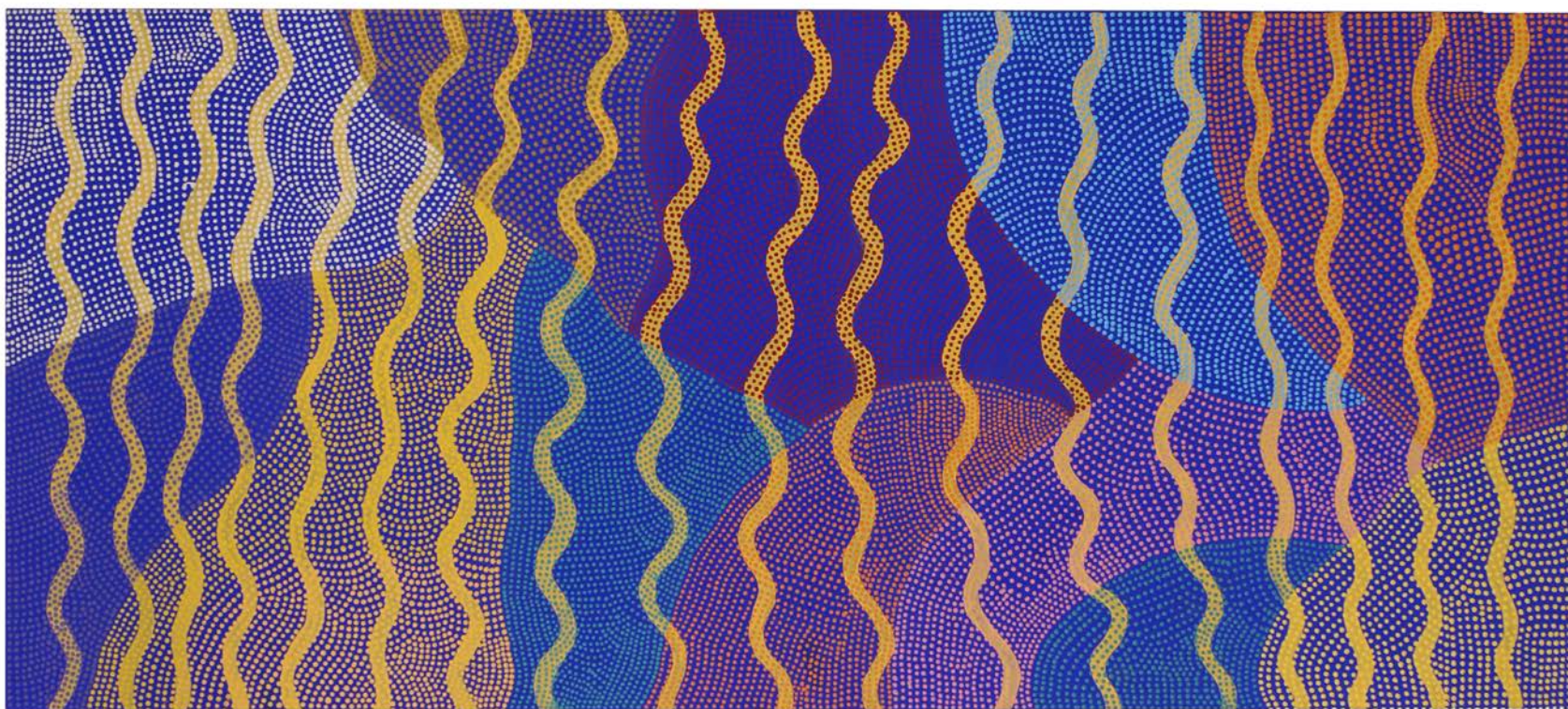
DAPHNE MARKS
Yalka at Karrkurutinytja, 2025
 Acrylic on Belgian linen
 58 x 113 cm
 AUD 2,200



JOYCE DIXON
Claypan at Karrinyarra, 2025
 Acrylic on Belgian linen
 80 x 120 cm
 AUD 2,560

Ann was born in Alice Springs and grew up in Papunya where she attended school. Her mother is Jocelyn Nampitjinpa, a Warlpiri woman and her father is Benny Tjapatjari from Warakurna in the NPY lands of Western Australia. Ann remembers a long time ago, when her father would walk with camels to Hermannsburg with rations for the people. There was a film made about her father, "Benny and the Dreamers" (1992) that tells the story of Benny and other Pintupi men.

This painting depicts the 'pin pin' desert bore outstation near Kintore. This is her father's Tjukurrpa and country. Pirrnpirrnga has mountains, rocks and a big rock hole, where there is always water. In the Tjukurrpa the snakes are travelling around the sand hill country, looking for water. Ann remembers visiting this country and seeing her aunt singing by those rock holes.



ANN LANE NEE DIXON
Pirrnpirrnga (Desert Bore), 2024
Acrylic on Belgian linen
80 x 180 cm
AUD 3840



PHILIP DENHAM
Bagu, 2024
 Clay, pigment, fiber
 36 x 13 x 5 cm
 AUD 550



PHILIP DENHAM
Bagu 4, 2021
 Clay, pigment, fiber
 24.5 x 13 x 5.5 cm
 AUD 276



PHILIP DENHAM
Bagu 3, 2021
 Clay, pigment, fiber
 22.5 x 13.5 x 4.5 cm
 AUD 440



PHILIP DENHAM
Bagu 2, 2021
 Clay, pigment, fiber
 22.5 x 11 x 5 cm
 AUD 395



EMILY MURRAY (NIGANDAY)
Bunyaydinyu Bagu, 2017
 Clay, pigment, fiber
 40 x 17 x 6 cm
 AUD 760



EMILY MURRAY (NIGANDAY)
Bagu, 2016
 Clay, pigment, fiber
 56.5 x 15 x 8 cm
 AUD 1,600



NANCY BEERON
Bunyaydinyu Bagu, TBC
 Clay, pigment, fiber, wool
 40 x 22 x 6 cm
 AUD 990



GEORGE BEERON SNR
Buni Bagu, 2014
 Clay, pigment, fiber
 40 x 17.4 x 5 cm
 AUD 720



GLEN NAMUNDJA

Namamde Devil, 2024

Natural ochre on paper, painted with a Manyilk grass brush

Paper size: 61 x 41 cm, framed: 81 x 60.5 cm

AUD 3,600



GLEN NAMUNDJA

Barramundi, 2024

Natural ochre on paper, painted with a Manyilk grass brush

Paper size: 41 x 30 cm, framed: 60 x 49 cm

AUD 2,075

Namundja's art is reflective of his character as an artist who will continually challenge himself. His first solo exhibition in Melbourne took place in 2008 and was a sell-out show. His 'Likkanaya and Marrayka', was awarded the 2009 National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Art Award in the Works on Paper category, and he has been a NATSIAA finalist several times, most recently in 2021. Glen's innovative stylistic merging of West Arnhem Land figurative painting with extensive rarrk (cross-hatching) is very much his own.



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ART GALLERY + ART CONSULTANCY

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