

SAMUEL NAMUNJDJA

Samuel Namunjaja was born in West Central Arnhem Land in 1965. He is part of the Kuninjku language group and belongs to the Yirridjja moiety. A member of an artistic family, Samuel was taught to paint the stories of his clan by his father, Peter Marralwanga, himself a distinguished painter.

Samuel has participated in more than 30 important group exhibitions as far afield as Slovenia, Japan, France, UK and USA since 1988. Still in his 20s, Namunjaja won the Rothmans Foundation Award for Best Painting in a Traditional Media at the National Aboriginal Art Award in 1993, and the Telstra Bark Painting Award at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award in 2006.

A common theme of Samuel Namunjaja's work is the *gungurra* or wind dreaming. These paintings depict not only the spiralling winds and cyclones common in Arnhem Land, but also refer to *Bilwoyinj*, a site near Samuel's clan estate. Other favourite subjects are the *mimi* spirit figures, *Ngalyod* rainbow serpent and the *Namarrkon* lightning man. Like many younger artists, Namunjaja paints not only these traditional stories, but also looks to less sacred surroundings and everyday activities such as fishing for yabbies, and other animals and plants.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2008 *Gungura – The Spiraling Wind*, Annandale Galleries, Sydney
- 2007 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2004 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2009 *Ochre – A Study in Materiality*, Short Street Gallery, Broome, Western Australia
Maningrida Group Show, Maningrida Arts & Culture Gallery, Darwin
26th Telstra National Aboriginal Art and Torres Strait Islander Art Award Exhibition, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin
During the Wet, Hemphill Fine Arts, Washington, United States of America
- 2008 *Melbourne Art Fair (William Mora Galleries)*, Royal Exhibition Buildings, Melbourne
Maningrida Art, Chapman Gallery, Canberra
Maningrida Survey Show, Short Street Gallery, Broome, Western Australia
Recent Works from Maningrida, Chapman Gallery, Canberra
Escorces Recentes de Maningrida, Galerie Luc Bertier, Paris, France
Spirit in Variation Part 2, Annandale Galleries, Sydney
- 2007 *Spirit in Variation*, Annandale Galleries, Sydney
Rarrk- London-, Bargehouse Gallery, London, UK
Blue Chip IX: The Collectors' Exhibition, Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2006 *23rd Telstra National Aboriginal Art and Torres Strait Islander Art Award Exhibition*, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin
Australian Aboriginal Art 2006/2007, John Gordon Gallery, Coffs Harbour, New South Wales
Lorrkons and Spirit Figures, Annandale Galleries, Sydney
Recent Works From Maningrida, Short Street Gallery, Broome, Western Australia
Peintures sur Ecorce de Maningrida, African Muse Gallery, Paris, France
Dream Tracks, Aboriginal Art of the Arnhem Land, La Fontaine Centre of Contemporary Art, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
- 2005 *Rarrk, Flowing on from Crossing Country*, Annandale Galleries, Sydney
22nd National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Arts Award, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin
Paris-Djinkarr-Milmilngkan, Maningrida Arts and Culture, Darwin
Rarrk, Raft Artspace, Darwin

- After Crossing Country, a Survey Bark Exhibition*, Indigenart, Perth
Bark Paintings and Carvings from Maningrida, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
Aboriginal Vision in Contemporary Australian Art, Wright Exhibition Space, Seattle, United States of America
- 2004 *Recent Works From Maningrida*, Short Street Gallery, Broome, Western Australia
Crossing Country: The Alchemy of Western Arnhem Land Art, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
Fibre and Sculptures, Indigenart, Fremantle, Western Australia
Hollow Logs from Maningrida, Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne
Living Together is Easy, Contemporary Art Center, Art Tower Mito, Japan and the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Bark Paintings, Carvings and Fibre Works from Maningrida, Hogarth Galleries, Sydney
21st Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin
- 2003 *The Visit*, Annandale Galleries, Sydney
20th Telstra National Aboriginal Art and Torres Strait Islander Art Award Exhibition, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin
Out of the Wet – New Art by Kuninjku Artists, Framed Gallery, Darwin
Dreamtime, Contemporary Aboriginal Art, Cankarjev Dom Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 2002 *Kuninjku Show*, Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London
East + West, Annandale Galleries, Sydney
- 2001 *In the Heart of Arnhem Land. Myth and the Making of Contemporary Aboriginal Art*, Musée del l'Hôtel-Dieu, Mantes-la-Jolie, France
- 2000 *Transitions: 17 Years of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award*, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin; and touring
- 1998 *Maningrida Group Show*, Alliance Francaise, Canberra
Spirits of the Dreaming Jarraman Arts Aboriginal Corporation, National Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Sydney
- 1996 *13th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award Exhibition*, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 1993 *The Tenth National Aboriginal Art Award Exhibition*, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 1992 *The Ninth National Aboriginal Art Award Exhibition*, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 1988 *Gunwinggu Artists*, Beaufort Convention Centre, Darwin

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2006 Telstra Bark Painting Award, 23rd Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin
- 2003 Highly commended, 20th Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin
- 1993 Rothmans Foundation Award [Best painting in a traditional media], National Aboriginal Art Award, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin

COLLECTIONS

- Agapitos/Wilson Collection, Sydney
 AIATSIS Collection, Canberra
 Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney
 Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide
 Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Victoria
 Kluge Collection, Charlottesville, United States of America
 Laverty Collection, Sydney
 Museum D'Histoire Naturelle de Lyon, France
 National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
 Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane
 The Kelton Foundation, Santa Monica, United States of America
 Private collections, Australia and overseas

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Apolline Kohen, *Samuel Namunjaja* (exhibition catalogue), Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2010
- Samuel Namunjaja* (exhibition catalogue), Niagara Publishing, Melbourne, 2007
- Gael Ramsay and Gordon Morrison, *Ballarat Fine Art Gallery: Highlights from the Collection*, Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Victoria, 2006
- Apolline Kohen, 'Telstra Weekend in Darwin for Maningrida Arts and Culture', *ANKAAA Arts Backbone*, Volume 6 Issue 3, September 2006
- Apolline Kohen, 'Maningrida Arts and Culture goes to Bahrain', *ANKAAA Arts Backbone*, Volume 6 Issue 2, June 2006
- 23rd *Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award* (exhibition catalogue), Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, 2006
- Hetti Perkins and Ken Watson, 'Yiribana: A facelift and a new show', *Look*, July 2005
- Hetti Perkins, *Crossing Country: The Alchemy of Western Arnhem Land Art*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, 2004
- Kohen, Garde, Ryan, Jurzak and Peltier, *In the heart of Arnhem Land: Myth and the Making of Contemporary Aboriginal Art*, Musée del l'Hôtel-Dieu, Mantes-la-Jolie, France, 2001
- Telstra presents Transitions: 17 years of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award*, Museum and Art Gallery of Northern Territory, Darwin, 2000
- M West, *13th National Aboriginal and Telstra Art Award*, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, 1997