

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

- 2008 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2005 Niagara Galleries, Melbourne
- 2004 Raft Artspace, Darwin

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2011 *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
- Laverty Collection, Sydney
- Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- Sydney Opera House, New South Wales
- Private Collections

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

- 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 Laverty, *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, 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, 1999