



# BUKU-LARRNGAY MULKA

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## Djalu' Gurruwiwi

**Other Names** Wulumbuyku, Willy

**Born** c. 1930

**Died**

**Moiety** Dhuwa

**Homeland** Naypinya

**Clan** Gälpu

### Selected Details of Artist's Working Life

#### **Medium and Theme**

yidaki (didjeridu) specialist  
earth pigments on bark  
earth pigments on larrakitj, hollow log coffins  
material culture items  
printing - screen, litho  
performing arts



#### **Biography**

A senior Gälpu man who lives on his Gumatj clan mother country at Gunyanjara'. He often stays for occasions at Galiwin'ku. He is a specialist yidaki player and craftsman who very rarely creates other art & craft for sale these days.

His reputation as a master yidaki craftsman and player has seen him rise to cult status internationally, and brings many visitors hungry to learn from him every year. He has delivered seven of the Garma festival Yidaki Master Classes at home in Arnhem Land, and has performed and taught in other Australian cities. He has traveled to Germany, the USA, Japan and Dubai to provide yidaki performances and tuition.

Djalu' has studied theology at Nungalinga college Darwin in 1994. In 1997 he travelled to Canberra to assist in opening of the 'Painters of the Wagilag Sisters Story 1937-1997' at the National Gallery where he took part in overseeing the building of a sacred sand sculpture in the Gallery foyer for the exhibition opening where he played yidaki. In 1998 he participated in a cultural exchange project "The Meeting of the Waters" convened by the NT University Fine Art Dept. He worked with artists from the Philippines and Indonesia as well as a white Australian working on both prints and painting.

#### **Exhibitions**

1990, Spirit in Land, Bark Paintings from Arnhem Land, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne.

1994, The Power of the Land, Masterpieces of Aboriginal Art, National Gallery of Victoria.

1994, The eleventh National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Galleries of the NT, Darwin.

1995, Miny'tji Buku-Larrngay, Paintings from the East, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne.

1995, The Twelfth National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art galleries of the NT, Darwin.

1996, The Thirteenth National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards, Museum and Art Galleries of the NT, Darwin.

1997, 'Native Title', Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney.

1997, The Painters of the Wagilag Sisters Story 1937 - 1997, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra.

1998, Hollow Logs from Yirrkala, Annandale Galleries, Sydney NSW.

1998, 'The Meeting of the Waters' An exhibition of prints and works by artists from the Australasian Print Project, 24Hour Art, Darwin NT

1999 - 2001 'Saltwater Country - Bark Paintings from Yirrkala' - National Tour; Drill Hall Gallery, ANU, Canberra; John Curtin Gallery, Curtin University, Perth; Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney; Museum of Modern Art at Heide, Melbourne; The Araluen Cultural Centre, Alice Springs; Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane.

2005 Ngann Girra Festival Albury Regional Museum

2008, Gapan Gallery - Bendt Prints, Garma Festival Site, Gulkula, NT.

2008, Galuku Gallery - berndt Prints, Darwin Festival, Botanical Gardens, Darwin, NT

2009 After Bernt - Indigenart - Mossenson Gallery, Perth, WA

## **Collections**

National Gallery of Victoria  
 JW Kluge Collection, Virginia USA  
 Private Collections

## **Bibliography**

Ryan, J Spirit in Land, ex. cat. 1990, NGV  
 Gill Hutcherson AIATSIS Researcher  
 Arnold, J. et al, Nambara Art, promo booklet, 1990, Colemans Printing Nhulunbuy  
 Caruana W, Lendon N, National Gallery of Australia, The Painters of the Wagilag Sisters Story 1937-1997. exhib cat.  
 Saltwater - Yirrkala Bark Paintings of Sea Country by Buku-Larrngay Mulka ISBN 0 646 37702 7 pp 82 & 83  
 Emerge Shell Development Australia Aboriginal Art Education Fund  
 MAGNT.  
 Waluka - CD released by Yothu Yindi Foundation 2001  
 Djalu Teaches and Plays Yidaki - CD released by Yothu Yindi Foundation 2001  
 Djalu Teaches and Plays Yidaki 2 - CD released by Yothu Yindi Foundation 2003  
 Diltjimurru - CD released in Germany 2003  
 Joshua Tree Didgeridoo Festival, the desert years - DVD released 2005  
 Gawurr Manikay - CD released by Dinkum Music, Japan 2005  
 Yidaki Festa 2005 - DVD released by Dinkum Music, Japan 2005  
 Toured to the UK, Italy, France, Belgium and Germany in 2009 to deliver Yidaki workshops and

performances.

### **Awards**

Accepted first prize at the 2003 Northern Territory export awards (art and entertainment category) in Darwin on behalf of Buku-Larrngay Mulka and all Yolŋu yidaki craftsmen in recognition of yidaki export growth. Djalu' performed at this event.

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