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**ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITY  
NONGIRRŊA MARAWILI**




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NONGIRRŃA MARAWILI**



Nongirrŋa Marawili  
Courtesy of the artist and  
Buku Larngay Mulka Centre  
Photo: Dave Wickens

(cover)  
Nongirrŋa Marawili  
Madarrpa b. 1939  
*Djapu* 2020  
Proposed acquisition



A photograph showing a person's legs in patterned shorts and a wooden sculpture of a snake on a wooden floor. The person is wearing blue and yellow patterned shorts and a black top. The wooden sculpture is white with red and black stripes and a black mouth. The background is a wooden floor with some paint splatters.

THIS IS AN EXCEPTIONAL  
OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE  
AN IMPORTANT NEW WORK  
BY NONGIRRŊA MARAWILI,  
ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S LEADING  
ARTISTS. *DJAPU* IS A MAJOR  
INSTALLATION THAT COMBINES  
FUCHSIA INK AND DJAPU  
ICONOGRAHY.

TONY ELLWOOD AM  
DIRECTOR, NGV



# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The National Gallery of Victoria's collection of Indigenous art is an internationally regarded record of the world's oldest continuous culture. Charting the history of Indigenous art practice, the NGV Collection celebrates the breadth and diversity of Indigenous art to earn its place as one of the most comprehensive collections worldwide.

The ability to continue developing this important area of the NGV Collection is thanks to the generosity of our philanthropic community. Through the support of our donors, the Gallery has been able to consistently collect the work of respected senior Madarrpa artist Nonggirrŋa Marawili, known for her impressive bark paintings, larrakitj (ceremonial hollow poles) and works on paper.

The Gallery's collection of works by Nonggirrŋa extends to the beginning of her artistic career in 1994. In 2017 Nonggirrŋa introduced a bright fuchsia-coloured ink into her work, which has been an important development in her practice. The NGV currently only has one such work in the Collection and now has the opportunity to acquire Nonggirrŋa's most recent work *Djapu* 2020, a seminal body of work that is not only Nonggirrŋa's first pink larrakitj, but also the first to combine fuchsia ink and Djapu iconography.

We are grateful to Barbara Hay and family as well as the Canny Quine Foundation for their leadership support towards *Djapu* and we warmly invite you to consider making a contribution. The acquisition of this compelling series of nine striking larrakitj by Nonggirrŋa will place the Gallery at the forefront of this collection area. Together, your support will significantly influence our ability to enrich the lives of our community.

We understand the deep impact of the global health crisis across our community and we appreciate that not everyone is in a position to support right now. We are truly grateful for donations of any size. Thank you for your loyalty and support.

**Tony Ellwood AM**  
Director, National Gallery of Victoria

[DONATE ONLINE NOW](#)

**Nonggirrŋa Marawili**  
*Djapu* 2020 (detail)  
earth pigments on Stringybark  
264.0 x 24.0 cm  
Proposed acquisition





**THIS WILL BE THE FIRST  
LARRAKITJ BY ESTEEMED  
ARTIST NONGIRRŊA  
MARAWILI TO ENTER  
THE NGV COLLECTION.**



# NONGIRRŊA MARAWILI

Nongirrŋa Marawili works at Buku Larrŋgay Mulka Centre, Yirrkala in the Northern Territory and is regarded as one of the most important artists working today. Nongirrŋa is also a respected member of the Yolŋu community as the daughter of Madarrpa leader Mundukul and Galpu woman Bulunguwuy, as well as the widow of Djapu clan leader and artist Djutadjuta Munungur.

During the late 1980s, Nongirrŋa learnt to paint by assisting Djutadjuta. It was through her late husband that Nongirrŋa learnt the Djapu iconography of Wandawuy, the freshwater home of Māna the ancestral shark and Bol'ŋu the Thunderman. In 1994 Nongirrŋa began to make work and she continued to do so with Djutadjuta until his passing in 1999.

In 2011 Nongirrŋa presented her first solo exhibition that included a major series of bark paintings that broke new artistic ground. These paintings featured the Djapu iconography of her late husband and were praised for her vigorous painting style. From 2014 onwards Nongirrŋa began to paint works that featured her own Madarrpa iconography, such as Baratjula, home of Mundukul the lightning snake. In 2017, Nongirrŋa used a bright fuchsia ink from recycled printer cartridges, adding a new colour to her palette and transforming her practice yet again.



# OTHER WORKS BY NONGIRRŊA MARAWILI IN THE NGV COLLECTION

The NGV Collection has collected the work of Nongirrŋa in depth, dating back to the start of her career in 1994. In these bark paintings, Nongirrŋa frequently uses a grid to refer to the landscape of the Wandawuy, the Djapu homeland of her late husband, Djutadjuta. Using lines to represent a network of billabongs surrounded by ridges and high banks, the grid also references woven fish traps used by ancestral hunters to lure sharks. The squares within the grid are further references to different states of freshwater, which is the source of the Djapu soul.

Nongirrŋa first used fuchsia-coloured ink, which she obtained from recycled printer cartridges, in 2017 when she made an etching with printmaker Basil Hall. In early 2018 Nongirrŋa opted to add this colour to her palette in response to work being made by Indigenous artist Karen Mills. The result was a vibrant suite of works on paper incorporating bright pink that marked an important turning point in Nongirrŋa's practice.

Nongirrŋa also introduced pinkish hues by mixing white with red ochre in her barks, a practice that resulted in an important body of work for the 2019 iteration of *Tarnanthi*, an annual festival of contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art held in Adelaide. This work featured her own Madarrpa iconography. That same year, Nongirrŋa returned to the Djapu iconography that absorbed her in her early career but pared down the miny'tji (sacred design) to its barest bones of a linear grid. This monochrome work also featured in *Tarnanthi* in 2019.

## **Nongirrŋa Marawili**

*Baratjalal* 2019

Purchased, Victorian Foundation  
for Living Australian Artists, 2020



# OTHER WORKS BY NONGIRRŃA MARAWILI IN THE NGV COLLECTION



**Djutadjuta Munungurr**  
**NongirrŃa Marawili**

*Māna (The shark)* 1994

Purchased through The Art Foundation of Victoria with the assistance of Alcoa of Australia Limited, Governor, 1994



**NongirrŃa Marawili**

*Thunderman raining down* 2012

Purchased with funds donated by Julie Kantor, 2013



**NongirrŃa Marawili**

*Wandawuy* 2012

Purchased with funds donated by Julie Kantor, 2013



**Nongirrŋa Marawili**  
*Mundukul* 2014  
 Purchased with funds donated  
 by Professor John Hay AC and  
 Mrs Barbara Hay, 2016



**Nongirrŋa Marawili**  
*Lightning in the rock* 2015  
 Purchased, NGV Supporters  
 of Indigenous Art, 2016



**Nongirrŋa Marawili**  
*Bol'ŋu, The Thunderman* 2015  
 Purchased with funds donated  
 by Loris Orthwein, 2013

All works © Nongirrŋa Marawili, courtesy of Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre, Yirrkala





**NONGIRRŊA'S USE OF FUCHSIA INK  
AND ENERGETIC PAINTING STYLE  
SETS HER APART FROM OTHER  
YOLŊU ARTISTS. THIS IS A SPECIAL  
MOMENT TO ACQUIRE A NEW WORK  
BY A LEADING ARTIST.**

**JUDITH RYAN AM  
SENIOR CURATOR, INDIGENOUS ART**



# DJAPU 2020

In recent years, the NGV has prioritised the acquisition of work by Yolŋu women artists, who before 2000 seldom painted on bark or made larrakitj. These artists are now at the forefront of contemporary art practice.

The opportunity to acquire this important new body of work by Nongirrŋa will address this priority. Nongirrŋa has created nine larrakitj of differing heights, girths and irregular dimensions which draw together the Djapu linear design with painterly bursts of hot pink to create a significant installation work that demonstrates this exciting new development in her practice.

The NGV Collection currently represents only one of Nongirrŋa's fuchsia bark paintings. *Djapu* is Nongirrŋa's first body of pink larrakitj and the first to blend fuchsia ink and Djapu iconography together. This series of larrakitj will enhance our representation of contemporary Yolŋu women's art and work by women artists who paint on bark from Buku Larrngay Mulka.

The NGV hopes to display *Djapu* soon once it has been successfully funded. Notably, this acquisition will also update our holdings of Nongirrŋa's practice and will be the first larrakitj by the artist to enter the NGV Collection.

**Acquisition value: \$150,000**

**DONATE ONLINE NOW**

We warmly welcome donations of any size to help make this acquisition possible. If you would like further information about supporting the work please contact the NGV Foundation on (+61 3) 8620 2415 or [ngv.foundation@ngv.vic.gov.au](mailto:ngv.foundation@ngv.vic.gov.au)

(following spread)

**Nongirrŋa Marawili**

*Djapu* 2020

earth pigments on Stringybark

264.0 x 24.0 cm

Proposed acquisition









# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE NGV

We hope you have been inspired by this important work by Nonggirrja Marawili, one of Australia's most esteemed artists from Yirrkala in the Northern Territory. The opportunity to acquire *Djapu* will greatly strengthen the NGV's representation of contemporary female artists.

While we appreciate that not everyone is in a position to support right now, rest assured we are sincerely grateful for donations of any size to assist us in bringing this important work into the NGV Collection.

With your contribution we hope to make this acquisition possible and ultimately share this with our community, both in person and through ongoing online engagement.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Donors who gift more than \$2500 will become part of the NGV's Annual Giving program where supporters can enjoy engagement with the Gallery including invitations to a calendar of exclusive events, behind-the-scenes access and unique NGV insight throughout the year.

If you would like further details on this work, please contact:

**Misha Agzarian**  
**Associate Director, Fundraising**  
**(+61 3) 8620 2392**  
**[misha.agzarian@ngv.vic.gov.au](mailto:misha.agzarian@ngv.vic.gov.au)**

# SUPPORT INDIGENOUS ART AT THE NGV

To make a contribution, please visit [ngv.melbourne/djapu-appeal](https://ngv.melbourne/djapu-appeal) or please select one of the below options and follow the prompts.



Support the acquisition of **Nongirrŋa Marawili Djapu** 2020  
\$150,000

[DONATE ONLINE](#)



Make a general donation to the Indigenous Art department

[DONATE ONLINE](#)



You can also donate by bank deposit and cheque payable to the National Gallery of Victoria.

### **Bank Deposit**

**Bank:** Westpac  
**Account name:** Council of Trustees of the  
National Gallery of Victoria – Donations  
**BSB:** 033 009  
**Account number:** 621 445

Please quote DJAPU and your surname on the electronic transfer and provide your details either by email or phone to the NGV Foundation so that we can acknowledge your donation.

### **Phone**

Please call the NGV Foundation on (+61 3) 8620 2415 and we can process your donation over the phone.

### **Cheque**

Please make cheques payable to *National Gallery of Victoria* and post to:  
NGV Foundation  
National Gallery of Victoria  
PO Box 7259  
MELBOURNE VIC 3004

We warmly welcome donations of any size towards making this acquisition possible. If you would like further information about supporting this work please contact the NGV Foundation team on (+61 3) 8620 2415 or [ngv.foundation@ngv.vic.gov.au](mailto:ngv.foundation@ngv.vic.gov.au).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION.**

**THROUGH THE SUPPORT  
OF OUR COMMUNITY, THE  
NGV CAN CONTINUE TO  
SHARE DIVERSE STORIES  
FROM AUSTRALIA.**







