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**ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITY
NONGIRRŊA MARAWILI**

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NONGIRRŃA MARAWILI**



Nongirrna Marawili
Courtesy of the artist and
Buku Larnggay Mulka Centre
Photo: Dave Wickens

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

A photograph of a person and a wooden sculpture on a wooden floor. The person, on the left, is wearing a black top and a vibrant, patterned skirt with blue, yellow, and orange designs. The wooden sculpture, on the right, is a long, rectangular piece with a white base and a red and white checkered pattern on top. It has a large, irregular opening in the middle. The background is a dark, weathered wooden floor.

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
ICONOGRAPHY.

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 NONGIRRŊA MARAWILI IN THE NGV COLLECTION



Djutadjuta Mununggurr
Nongirrŋa Marawili
Māna (The shark) 1994
Purchased through The Art Foundation
of Victoria with the assistance of Alcoa
of Australia Limited, Governor, 1994



Nongirrŋa Marawili
Thunderman raining down 2012
Purchased with funds donated
by Julie Kantor, 2013



Nongirrŋa 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'ru, 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 Larrŋgay 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

(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

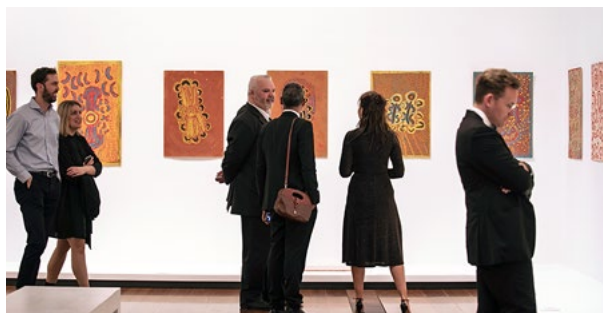
SUPPORT INDIGENOUS ART AT THE NGV

To make a contribution, please visit 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.

A close-up photograph of a wooden plank being painted with a vibrant magenta or deep pink paint. The paint is applied in a thick, textured layer, with some areas showing more coverage than others. To the right of the plank, a palette with various colors of paint and a paintbrush are visible, suggesting an ongoing artistic project. The background consists of several other wooden planks, some of which are also partially painted with the same magenta color.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION.**

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



