

# Short St. Gallery



## Ivan Namirrcki

<b>Born</b>	1961
<b>Language</b>	Kununjku
<b>Region</b>	Anhem Land, NT

*"We have been all around the world to exhibitions. I am the voice of this artists group and a strong man; a proud traditional owner who is happy to inform my peoples of our future in telling stories around the world. We are thinking about our history, always thinking as we are creating and learning, and my family put their stories on some bark and some rocks here in this country. For my kids and grandkids to learn and teach their kids and grandkids, I think this is really wonderful. This is really important to me and the people of this community, so that this story can keep me strong story, one that is passed on for future generations." - Ivan Namirrcki*

Kununjku artist Ivan Namirrcki was born in 1961. Namirrcki was taught to paint by his father Peter Marralwanga (1917–1987) - a renowned bark painter and political proponent of the maintenance of 'country'.

Namirrcki was first taught to paint by his father in a figurative manner. The focus was stories like Kalawan and Namorrordo for his Kardbam clan lands near Mankorlod although later Marralwanga also guided Namirrcki in the stories for other clans around Kumurrulu. He helped his father work on two exhibitions in Perth in 1981 and 1983 and travelled to Perth as part of the project. To distinguish his own figurative works Namirrcki often used black paint as the background to the figures although, like his father, he also became adept at varying the pattern of in fill from rarrk to dotting to sections of full colour to create dynamic visual effects. In the late 1990s Namirrcki moved to paint geometric work in the Mardayin style. His style is very strongly symmetrical with evenly spaced bands of rarrk arrayed in concentric diamond forms. This diamond arrangement has become his signature and it features as the background of works that show the complex interconnections between waterholes in his country. He also contrasts this patterning with dotting and other variations of rarrk to indicate the power of the sites. Occasionally Namirrcki will return to paint figurative images or combine them in more geometric images.

Common themes in his work include the ngalyod (rainbow serpent), birmlu and djarlahdjarlah (barramundi), kalawan (goanna), komorlo (little egret), komrdawh (freshwater turtle), nadjinem (black wallaroo), nakidikidi (aharmful and nasty spirit), namorrordo (a profane spirit), nayuhyungki bininj



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(ancient people), ngaldjalarrk(snake), ngalyod (rainbow serpent), ngurrurdu (emu), and yawkyawk (a female water spirit).He is also known for painting leech djang located at Yibalaydjyigod and maggot djang located at Yirolk. Luke Taylor cites Namirrkki and his father's work, transferring this djang (or dreaming), as a political act, invoking a tangible aboriginal ontology in relation to land, life and the spiritual.

"The point of painting such work for the market is to expose viewers directly to the power of the Ancestral realm"...Namirrkki has spoken of his love for country particularly the soothing qualities of living adjacent to it's important waters. There is also a confidence and peace derived from living in one's heartland that flows to all activities conducted there. An understanding of the importance of country provides the context for more developed understanding of Kuninjku concepts of personhood, sociality, power, and health, as well as local constructions of other frameworks of human experience such as aesthetic experience."

Namirrkki began exhibiting his work in the early nineteen eighties and has been presented in numerous group and solo shows over the years, both in Australia and overseas. In 2006 he was a finalist in the National Gallery of Victoria's Clemenger Contemporary Art Prize. Namarrkki's art can be found in many collections including that of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, National Gallery of Victoria and the Art Gallery of South Australia.

1. Luke Taylor, Connections of Spirit: Kuninjku Attachments to Country, in Country, Native Title and Ecology, ed.Jessica K. Weir, pp. 21-46.

## Solo Exhibitions

- 2009 Ivan Namirrkki - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
- 2007 Ivan Namirrkki – Raft Artspace, Darwin, NT
- 2002 Kardbam namurungi - Rarrk Designs from the Kardbam clan - Aboriginal and Pacific Arts, Sydney, NSW
- 1999 Ivan Namirrkki - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW

## Group Exhibitions

- 2023 Two masters of Maningrida Arts – Everywhen Artspace
- 2021 Northern Waters – Short St Gallery, Broome, WA
- 2020 Tamanthi Art Fair - Lot Fourteen, Adelaide, SA
- 2020 RESILIENCE: The power of the past today - Maningrida - Aboriginal Signature Estrangin FineArt, Brussels, Belgium
- 2019 Rendezvous - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
- 2019 Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair - Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin
- 2019 Art Karlsruhe 2019 - ARTKELCH @ art Karlsruhe 2019, Karlsruhe, Germany



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2018	Mardayin - Aboriginal Art von Maningrida Arts - ARTKELCH, Freiburg, Germany
2018	From Coast to Escarpment: Spirit Worlds of Maningrida - Michael Reid, Sydney, NSW
2018	Outstation - Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
2017	Landscape as Knowledge - Grace Cossington Smith Gallery, Sydney, NSW
2016	Bark + Ironwood - Charles Nodrum Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
2015	Summer Sojourn - Art Atrium, Sydney, NSW
2015	Exploration of Bark - Outstation Gallery, Darwin, NT
2014	Luminous World: Contemporary Art from the Wesfarmers Collection - Academy Gallery, University of Tasmania Gallery, TAS
2012	Maningrida Group Show - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
2011	Westfarmers Exhibition - Perth, Australia
2011	The Dreaming Changes Shape - Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, Australia
2010	Best of Maningrida - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, Australia
2010	Collection Highlights - Seva Frangos Art, Subiaco, Australia
2009	Ancestral Spirit Beings and Ceremonial Lorrkon - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
2009	Recent Works by Maningrida - William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
2009	26th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards Exhibition - Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
2008	Togart Contemporary Art Award - Togart, Northern Territory
2008	Togart Contemporary Art Award - Togart, Northern Territory
2008	Maningrida Arts - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2008	Melbourne Art Fair - Art Fair, William Mora Galleries, Melbourne
2008	25th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards Exhibition - Museum and Art Gallery Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
2007	Spirit in Variation Part II - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2007	Maningrida group show - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2007	Lorrkon, Spirit Beings - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC
2007	New Works - Chapman Gallery, Canberra, ACT
2007	Spirit in Variation - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2007	Parrk - Bargehouse Gallery, London, UK
2006	Clemenger Contemporary Art Prize - National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC
2007	Our Home - CDU Art Collection, CDU, Darwin, NT
2006	Lorrkons and Spirit Figures - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2006	Dream Tracks, Aboriginal art of Amhem Land - La Fontaine Centre of Contemporary Art, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
2005	Bark paintings and carvings from Maningrida - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2005	22nd National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Arts Awards - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
2005	Parrk, flowing on from Crossing Country - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
2005	Recent works from Maningrida - Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA
2004	Hollow Logs from Maningrida - Gallery Gabrielle Pizzi, Melbourne, VIC

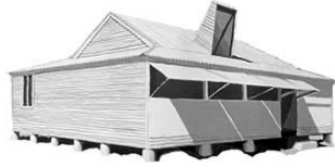


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- 2004 Bark paintings, carvings and fibre works from Maningrida - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
- 2004 Maningrida Burial Poles - Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, UK
- 2004 Crossing Country: the alchemy of western Arnhem Land art - Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
- 2004 Maningrida Recent Works - William Mora Galleries, Melbourne, VIC
- 2003 The Visit - Annandale galleries, Sydney, NSW
- 2003 Mythological beings from Maningrida - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
- 2003 RAKA award, Places that Name Us - The Ian Potter Museum of Art, Melbourne VIC
- 2003 20th Telstra national Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
- 2003 Out of the Wet - new art by Kuninjku artists - Framed gallery, Darwin, NT
- 2002 Kuninjku show, Rebecca Hossack Gallery, London, UK
- 2002 19th Telstra National & Torres Strait Islander Art Award Exhibition - Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin
- 2002 East + West, Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
- 2002 Barks in the spotlight - Utrecht, The Netherlands
- 2001 18th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award Exhibition - Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT
- 2001 Outside in: Research Engagements with Arnhem Land Art - Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT
- 2001 Arnhem Land Carvings and Bark Paintings - Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW
- 2001 In the Heart of Arnhem Land. Myth and the making of contemporary Aboriginal art - Musée de l'Hôtel-Dieu, Mantes-la-Jolie, France
- 2000 Biennale Of Sydney 2000 - Biennale Of Sydney, various venues at various location, NSW
- 2000 Kuninjku Cosmology: recent works by Mick Kubarkku and his sons - Aboriginal & Pacific Arts, Sydney, NSW
- 2000 Aboriginal bark paintings, sculptures & hollow logs - Annandale Galleries, Sydney, NSW
- 1989 Kunwinjku - Deutscher Gertrude Street, Melbourne, VIC
- 1988 Gunwinggu Artists - Beaufort Convention Centre, Darwin, NT
- 1983 Artists of Arnhem Land - Canberra School of Arts, Canberra, ACT

## Collections

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW  
Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide, SA  
Artbank, Sydney, NSW  
Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, VIC  
Charles Darwin University Art Collection



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Djomi Museum, Maningrida, NT

Dr. Colin and Liz Lavery private collection, Sydney, NSW

Hogarth Galleries, Sydney, NSW

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, NT

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, VIC

The Kaplan-Levi Collection, Private Collection, United States of America