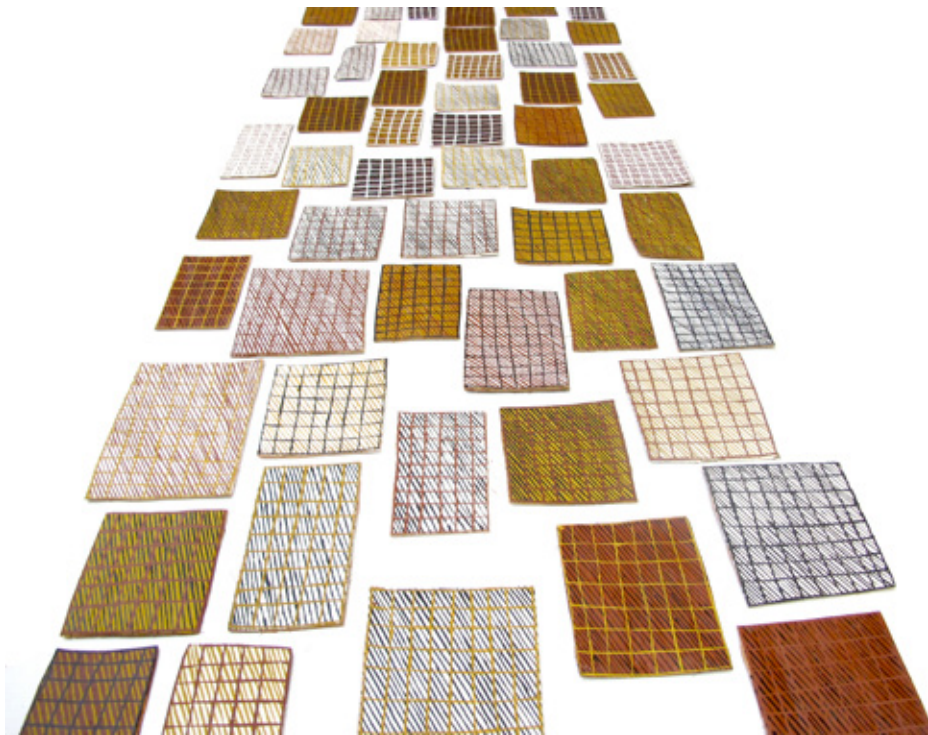


GERTRUDE CONTEMPORARY

MEDIA RELEASE



MARRNYULA MUNUNGGURR, GANYBU

EXHIBITION OPENING: FRIDAY 30 JANUARY 2015, 6–8PM

EXHIBITION DATES: 30 JANUARY – 14 MARCH 2015

Marrnyula Mununggurr presents a new body of work, *Ganybu* — a vast matrix of 252 small bark paintings and one larrakitj, each of which depict the artist's Djapu clan design, the fishtrap that caught Māna (the ancestral shark) at Wāndawuy in North East Arnhem Land. Mununggurr's grids painted in natural ochres reference the topography of Wāndawuy itself, striated by billabongs, high banks and ridges, as well as the architectural structure of the large fishtraps themselves. The grid of the fishtrap is iterated in the negative space between the small barks hung en masse on the gallery wall — an invisible or camouflaged grid, as the trap appears to freshwater fish.

Mununggurr will also undertake a short Studio 18 residency between the 26th of January and the 2nd of February, during which time she will give painting and Yolngu string figure demonstrations.

Mununggurr's exhibition and residency marks the beginning of a new partnership between Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre and Gertrude Contemporary, which will facilitate the exchange of artists, curators and exhibitions between the two art organisations in Yirrkala and Melbourne.

Discussion with the artist at 1pm Saturday 31 January 2015.

Mununggurr (b. 1964, Yirrkala) is a Djapu woman of the Dhuwa moiety, a senior printmaker and artist at Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre. Recent exhibitions include: *Making it New — A Survey of Contemporary Art*, MCA, Sydney, 2009; *17th Biennale of Sydney — The Beauty of Distance*, MCA, Sydney, curated by

David Elliott, 2010; *Djalkiri; We are standing on their names*, Nomad Art, 24-Hour Art, Darwin Festival, 2010; and the Telstra NATSIAA, Museum and Art Galleries Northern Territory, Darwin, 2010. Her work is represented in numerous national and international collections, including the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; MAGNT, Darwin; JW Kluge Collection, Virginia, USA; National Maritime Museum (Saltwater Country — Bark Paintings from Yirrkala), Sydney; Sydney Opera House, Sydney; University of Wollongong, NSW; Singapore Art Gallery, Singapore; the Holmes à Court Collection, and the Kerry Stokes Collection, both Australia. In 1994, Mununggurr was awarded the Best Painting at Barunga Festival Art Awards, and in 2002 received an Honourable Mention in the Michael Long Testimonial Art Award.

Gertrude Contemporary's Studio Program is generously supported by the Danielle and Daniel Besen Foundation.

Gertrude Contemporary's Education Program is generously supported by the Marjorie M. Kingston Trust.

Image: Marrnyula Mununggurr, *Ganybu*, 2015, natural ochres on bark, dimensions variable, courtesy the artist and Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre, Yirrkala.

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