

Barry Bangarr



Dob: c1972
Died: 2014
Tribe: Kunwinjku
Outstation: Gumerrirrbang
Region: Western Arnhem Land
Community Centre: Gunbalanya [Oenpelli]
Language Bloc: Bininj kunwok
Language: Kunwinjku
Local Group (clan): Marrim

Medium/ Form: Painting, ochres on Arches paper

Subjects and Themes: brolga, white ibis, Mimi spirits, long neck turtle & eggs, barramundi, file snakes,

Group Exhibitions:

1993, Australian Heritage Commission National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award Exhibition, Old Parliament House, Canberra.

Details

This artist is the son of world-famous bark painter, Jerry Bangarr, who taught his son how to paint when the family lived at a lonely camp, Gumarrirrbang, high up in the Stone Country. According to Aboriginal tradition, painters are only allowed to pass on their designs and the myths associated with them to their sons or nephews, and then only after the young men have gone through certain age grading rites which make them fully initiated men. Each design is sacred to an artist or a clan, and the rules are very strict that no other person has the right to paint another artist's design.



As Barry passed through his age grading rites, his father taught him more and more of the sacred myths of his tribe, and showed him how to record them on bark, using natural ochres and brushes made from bush stems whittled down to a few strands.

When the family came to Oenpelli to live Barry learnt how to paint on Arches Rives paper, still using natural ochres and brushes. He is regarded as an excellent artist, and his works are eagerly sought after by art galleries and collectors.



Aboriginal Fine Arts Gallery

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