

CHILDREN'S TRAIL



# art+ soul

ART  
GALLERY  
NSW

Have fun exploring the exhibition  
and make some art of your own

YIRIBANA GALLERY OF ABORIGINAL  
& TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ART

Collect  
a pencil



Go on a journey  
through the  
Yiribana Gallery  
ON LOWER LEVEL 3



Look at  
the artworks

★ Look, draw and have fun!

cover: Jackie Kuritjynyintja Giles Tjapaltjarri *Kaliangkku* 2005 (detail)

below: Ginger Riley Munduwalawala *Nyamiyukanji, the river country* 1997 (detail) synthetic polymer paint on canvas, 185.3 x 201.7cm. Purchased 2002 © Estate of Ginger Riley Munduwalawala, courtesy of Alcaston Gallery



# art+ soul

This exhibition explores the diversity of Indigenous culture through three themes: 'home and away', 'dreams and nightmares' and 'bitter and sweet'.

YIRIBANA GALLERY, LOWER LEVEL 3



Written by Jonathan Jones and Amanda Peacock; designed by Karen Hancock  
© Public Programs Department, Art Gallery of New South Wales 2010

Principal sponsor of the  
Yiribana Gallery since 1995

★ **Look** at this map of Australia.

The artists in this exhibition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait art come from language groups all over Australia.

As you explore the exhibition **look** at the labels next to the artworks, find these language groups on the map.

**Mark** on the map where you live.

**Tick** below as you find each language group on the map:

- ☐ Ngaanyatjarra
- ☐ Yolngu
- ☐ Kukatja
- ☐ Wangkajunga
- ☐ Ngarrindjeri
- ☐ Gija
- ☐ Kuninjk
- ☐ Waanyi
- ☐ Yorta Yorta



★ **Notice** the patterns and lines in this painting of country.

**Jackie Kurltjunyintja Giles Tjapaltjarri** was an important Ngaanyatjarra painter from Patjarr (Karilwarra) in the Southern Desert region.

**Look** at the shapes and colours. Does it remind you of anything?

**Choose** a line and follow it with your eye as far as you can. Is it possible to navigate your way from one side to the other?

**Write** the initials of your name below and fill this space with your own intricate pattern in black and white. Will you choose to make the lines white or black?



Jackie Kurltjunyintja Giles Tjapaltjarri, *Kalangkku* 2005, synthetic polymer paint on canvas, 101.6 x 152.6 cm. Art Gallery of New South Wales, Mollie Gowing Acquisition Fund for Contemporary Aboriginal Art 2005 © Estate of Jackie Kurltjunyintja Giles Tjapaltjarri, Kayili Artists

**At home make** a painting using pattern and line. Make your lines curvy or straight. Fill every part of your page but make sure the lines never touch each other.



★ **Walk** around this installation of larrakitj (hollow logs).

Gulumbu Yunipingu is a senior Yolngu artist from east Arnhem Land.

**Find** her larrakitj covered with painted stars.

**Look** at the way the artist has painted stars and constellations on these poles.

**Describe** the colours and designs. **Count** how many stars as you can see.

**Write** a short poem about the night sky.



Gulumbu Yunipingu *Garak the universe* 2007. *Garak the universe* 2007, natural pigments on wood, 248 x 16 cm, 290 x 16 cm © Gulumbu Yunipingu. Buku Larrnggay Mulka Centre

**At home look** at the stars in the night sky from where you live. Find patterns in their arrangement and tell a story about how they came to be.



★ **Here** is a painting that tells a story.

**Rover Thomas** was a Kukatja and Wangkajunga artist who worked in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.

**Look** at the painting and **list** the colours and shapes you can see.

**Find** the man, his boomerang and fighting sticks, the waterhole at night and the moonlight reflecting on the rock.

**Represent** a story you know well using only shapes below. **Explain** it to someone else.



Rover Thomas *Two men dreaming* c1985, natural pigments on canvas board 91 x 61 cm  
Art Gallery of New South Wales. Purchased 2000 © Estate of Rover Thomas. Warman Art Centre

**At home find** images of lakes, rivers, billabongs and the ocean at night. Study the light, its reflections and shadows. Make a painting of water in the moonlight.



★ **Look** at this sculpture from different angles.

**Yvonne Koolmatrie** is a Ngarrindjeri artist from the Coorong region of South Australia.

**Examine** this eel trap and **explain** how it would work. How do you think it was made?



**Choose** a small area and **make** a detailed drawing of the pattern and texture in the box below.



**At home find out** about other fishing and farming technologies developed by Indigenous Australians.



★ **Look** at this painting of a site in Lena Nyadbi's country.

**Lena Nyadbi** is a Gija artist from Warmun (Turkey Creek) in the Kimberley region.

**Find** the ancestral barramundi scales and spearheads depicted in this painting.

**Count** the number of rows and columns of spearheads and estimate the total number. Are there more red or white spearheads?

**Develop** a symbol to represent something important in your world and use it to fill the box below.



Lena Nyadbi *Hideout* 2002 natural pigments on canvas, 150 x 180 cm  
Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased 2003 © Lena Nyadbi. Licensed by Viscopy, Australia

**At home create** your own picture using shapes and textures from your favourite animal and tell a tale about its adventure.





★ **Look** at this painting of a yawk yawk in a billabong.

**Jimmy Njiminjuma** was an important Kuninjku painter from western Arnhem Land.

Yawk yawks are like mermaids.

**Find** the edges of her body and her tail.

**Look** closely at the rarrk patterning on the yawk yawk's body and surroundings.

**Name** the colours you can see.

What other creatures do you know that live in water? **Draw** them in their surroundings here.



Jimmy Njiminjuma *Yawkyawk* 2000, natural pigments on bark, 157 x 63 cm. Art Gallery of New South Wales, Mollie Gowing Acquisition Fund for Contemporary Aboriginal Art 2001 © Estate of Jimmy Njiminjuma. Licensed by Viscopy, Sydney

**At home find** Arnhem Land on a map of Australia. Find out about rock art, animals, plants and seasons. Describe the way people live, their technologies and traditions.



★ **Look** at the patterns and swirls on this fabric.

**Judy Watson** is a Waanyi artist from the Gulf region and lives in Brisbane.

**Look** how the colours merge and spread in this artwork.

What do the rust coloured areas look like? What other details can you see?

Do you think it was flat on the ground or pinned on the wall when the artist created it?

**Role play** her actions in making it.



Judy Watson *red tides* 1997, pigment and pastel on canvas, 186 x 120 cm. Art Gallery of New South Wales, Mollie Gowing Acquisition Fund for Contemporary Aboriginal Art 1999 © Judy Watson. Licensed by Viscopy, Sydney

**At home make** a painting by pouring coloured washes of paint onto fabric spread on the ground. Use pastels to draw patterns over the surface once it is dry.



★ **Imagine** the sounds these fruit bats would make.

**Lin Onus** was a Yorta Yorta artist from the border of New South Wales and Victoria.

**Count** the fruitbats on this hills hoist clothes line. Are they all identical? What are the circles on the floor?

**Describe** the patterns painted on their wings. **Act** out the movements and sounds a fruit bat makes.

**Invent** a new sculpture in this box using your favourite animal and an ordinary object you see everyday.



Lin Onus *Fruit bats* 1991, polychromed fibreglass sculptures, polychromed wooden disks, Hills Hoist clothesline, 250 x 250 x 250 cm. Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased 1993 © Estate of Lin Onus, Licensed by Viscopy, Sydney

**At home create** your own sculpture using recycled materials, boxes and cardboard. Decorate your sculpture using four colours.



★ **Look** at this famous documentary photograph.

**Mervyn Bishop** is a photographer from Brewarrina.

**Describe** the colour of the sky in the background and the angle from which the photo was taken.

**Write** a conversation for this historic event.



Mervyn Bishop Prime Minister Gough Whitlam pours soil into the hands of traditional land owner Vincent Lingiari, Northern Territory 1975, type R photograph, 76 x 50.7cm. Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased 1994 © Mervyn G Bishop. Licensed by Viscopy, Sydney

**At home listen** to the song *From little things big things grow* by Kev Carmody and Paul Kelly. Write your own song based on a photograph from a newspaper.

