

Start at home

Seasons and senses

About the Artist

Working from the Buku-Larrngay Mulka Centre in Arnhem Land, Djakanu Yunupingu first exhibited her paintings in 2021 at the age of seventy-two, after caring for her late sister Mrs N Yunupingu for many years. She had previously participated in printmaking workshops with her sisters when in 2011 they collectively made the renowned, *Seven Sisters* suite of prints.

Djakanu Yunupingu comes from a very well-known family. She is the daughter of the late Gumatj leader, activist, and prominent Australian painter Mungurrawuy Yunupingu (c.1905–1979). Her brother, Dr Mandawuy Yunupingu, was a founding member and lead singer of Yothu Yindi, and her elder brother, Mr Yunupingu, recently deceased, a leader in land rights legislation and former Northern Land Council chairman. Her six sisters are all esteemed artists and previous winners of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards.

About the work

Tears of the Djulpan, is a painting on bark which illustrates a song-line that can be drawn from Arnhem Land through the islands of Southeast Asia to what is now known as Singapore. The story, shared by Djakanu's father, explains that women paddle in their canoe from island to island collecting from the land then lighting their fires. The delicate balance of land, sea and stars must be respected, everything depends on it. If the fires are lit before the women return home to cook their food, they will cry. Djakanu paints this rain, falling out of season as tears from the sky, known as *gurmali*.

Scan the QR code to hear Djakanu Yunupingu talk more about her practice on the ABC Kids listen podcast, *Little Yarns*.

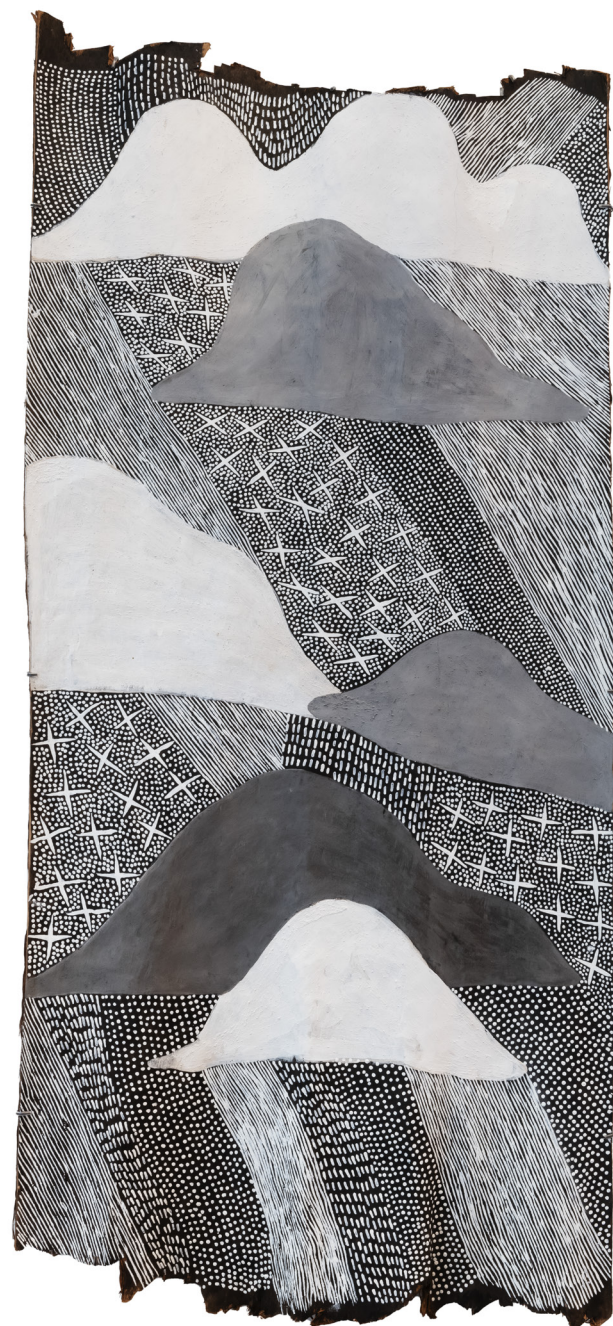


image Djakanu Yunupingu, Gumatj clan, Yolngu people, Northern Territory, born Yirrkala, northeast Arnhem Land, Northern Territory 1949, *Tears of the Djulpan*, 2022, Yirrkala, northeast Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, earth pigments on stringybark (*Eucalyptus tetradonta*), 186.0 x 86.0 cm; Private collection, © the artist / Buku-Larrngay Mulka Centre.

Presented by



The Activity

Yolŋu people recognise that the seasons of the Miwatj region vary and cannot be determined by a traditional calendar. Observation and engagement with the environment tells them about the seasons and what is coming. How do you experience the seasons?

- 1 Make a list or collect images and sounds that describe various times of the year.
- 2 Draw a circle on a piece of card or mark it out on the ground.
- 3 Divide the circle, like a pie, into the number of seasons experienced in your region.
- 4 Fill each section with colours, textures, images, or collected materials, which reflect the feeling of each season. Glue objects in place if you like.
- 5 You should be able to see the entire year as a sensory colour wheel.
- 6 As an alternative to a visual representation, you could collect sounds of the seasons and piece them together as an audio track to listen the year in sound.

Materials

- Cardboard
- Pencils, texta, pens
- Collage materials, leaves, flowers, paper, fabrics.
- Glue
- Scissors
- Mobile recording device *Optional

Take it further

Place your sensory calendar in the home and add to it as you move through the seasons and notice different things that catch your attention.

Djakaŋu Yunupiŋu, *Tears of the Djulpan*, is currently on display as part of Tarnanthi



image *Tears of the Djulpan*, 2022, Yirrkala, northeast Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, earth pigments on Stringybark (Eucalyptus tetrodonta), 223.0 x 23.0 cm; Acquisition through Tarnanthi: Festival of Contemporary Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art supported by BHP 2023, Art Gallery of South Australia, © the artist / Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre.

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We would love to see your work! Ask your parent or carer to post a photo on Instagram and tag the Art Gallery of South Australia. Or you can email your photo to us at public.programs@artgallery.sa.gov.au

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