

CAIRNS  
ART  
GALLERY

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16 OCT –  
4 DEC 2021

**WOMEN  
PAINTING  
COUNTRY**

ARTWORK LABELS

# Nita YUNKAPORTA

## **Aak Puul Min** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*This is the story of my Country. It is the wet season. The geese come to the swamp to lay eggs. When the dry season comes, they return back home because this place gets dry and there is no water.*

## **Aak Min** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*This is the wet season on my Mother's Country on the southern Wik lands. All the fruits get ripe, the grass grows high and there are lots of flowers. The Magpie geese come to lay their eggs and we get to eat them.*

# Vera KOOMEETA

## **Aak Puul Ngaantam** 2021

ochres with synthetic binder on canvas

*This is when the Knox river and small creek beds starts to dry up. The ocean waves crash on the shore and create a mist.*

## **Paamp Min** 2021

ochres with synthetic binder on canvas

*This is my Grandmother's Country.*

# Sheryl Pamulkan MAY

## **Pach Mo'an (shooting star story)** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*The shooting star is one of my totems and the story place is located on my Mothers Country on the southern Wik lands.*

## **Sheryl's Country** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*This is my Mothers Country on the southern Wik lands.*

Courtesy of the artists and Wik and Kugu Arts Centre

# Beverly HOLROYD

born 1985

## 7. ***Inland Country*** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*Inland Country is about my freshwater Country that is filled with billabongs during the wet season. In the dry season everything dries up and the Country becomes more demanding to live in. There are lots of termite mounds. I love going there and connecting to Country.*

## 8. ***Burning Country*** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*Our people always burn Country. We usually do it 2 to 4 times a year. We burn it when it is ready and the soil becomes richer and new grasses grow. This brings in new animals like the Wallaby. Our old people would hide and spear them running from the fire.*

Courtesy of the artist and Pormpuraaw Arts and Culture Centre

# Wanda GIBSON

Nugal Warra  
born 1946

## 9. ***Dawn service*** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*Dawn service at the cemetery with nganathanun bama ngay.*

## 10. ***Ngalan-thiiray bayan-ngun*** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*This the view of the sunset from my home.*

## 11. ***Tipa Island, Cape Melville*** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*The Tipa Island represents two snakes that were having a disagreement. The larger snake gets injured and tries to escape but eventually ends up dying, forming Tipa Island.*

# Madge BOWEN

Bulgan Warra  
born 1944

## 12. **Kings Plains walnga** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

## 13. **Bulgan Mathiga** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*My tribal land is Bulgan (Kings Plains). My mother's family lived there in the early days and lived on the food that they hunted. They were content with what they had and lived a happy, simple life. The lagoons had plenty of wildlife, including the dukal (albino freshwater turtles). The kunarw (kangaroo) and burrwi (emu) lived on the plains. The lagoons have pink waterlilies. My mother passed away when I was eight, and I was sent to live in Hope Vale. My paintings are a memory of my family. The plains, lagoons, wildlife and the lilies are all still there today.*

## 14 **Kings Plains** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*This is Kings Plains where my ancestors lived for years. it is a beautiful place, but they had to move because the white man came and took them to Cooktown.*

Courtesy of the artists and Hope Vale Arts and Cultural Centre

# Gertie DEERAL

Dingaai  
born 1944

## 15. **Yurru** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*A sawfish and a stingray had a disagreement. The sawfish cut through the stingray leaving it to die. Its body formed into what is now known as Lizard Island.*

## 16. **Yurru** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*My painting is about the way Cape Flattery looked when I was young.*

## 17. **Yurru Lagoon** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*Animals drinking from the lagoon.*

Courtesy of the artist and Hope Vale Arts and Cultural Centre

# Dorothy GABORI

Kayardild  
born 1959

## 18. **Mud shells** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*The mud shells in my painting are from my homeland on Bentinck Island.*

## 19. **Ngurruwarra (stone fish traps)** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

## 20. **Ngurruwarra (stone fish traps)** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*Ngurruwarra means stone fish trap in our language. We can still see the fish traps that the old people built along the coast of Bentinck Island.*

# Amanda Jane GABORI

Kayardild  
born 1966

## 21. **Sweers Island - My Father's Country** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

## 22. **My mother's Country** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*This painting is about my mum, Mirdidingkingathi Juwarnda Sally Gabori. She was taken away from her Country but she never lost her creative roots. Her art is bright and light, just like the land she was born in - Mirdidingki, on the south side of Bentinck Island. This is her Country, where the big lake is.*

## 23. **Corals at my father's Country** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*These are the corals at Flat Rock. This is my father's Country at Sweers Island. That's the place where the Baganun oysters are.*

Courtesy of the artists and Mornington Island Art

# Amy LOOGATHA

Kayardild  
born c. 1942

## 24. ***Bada Warrku (late afternoon sun)*** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

## 25. ***Kabara (salt pan)*** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*The red clay of the salt pan was once used by our old people to treat wounds. This was done by rubbing it onto the infected area. The white clay was eaten to cure belly problems. When the salt pan dried, white and red clay was rubbed onto the body and used for ceremony.*

Courtesy of the artist and Mornington Island Art

# Dolly LOOGATHA

Kayardild  
born c. 1946

## 26. ***Bijarrb (dugong)*** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*The dugong is my family's totem and my language name.*

## 27. ***My Country*** 2021

synthetic polymer paint on canvas

*Thundi is where I was born. It's also my father's Country on Bentinck Island. Today my family go back to hunt and camp, so the younger ones do not forget Country. I paint my Country to remember my family and keep our connection to it.*

Courtesy of the artist and Mornington Island Art