

Spread your wings



Discovery trail



art education and access



Australian Government
Visions of Australia



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National Collecting Institutions
Touring & Outreach Program

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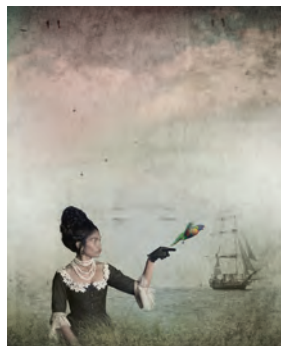
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(cover)

Michael Cook

Bidjara people

Broken Dreams #3 2010

10 digital colour photographs

125 x 100 cm each

National Gallery of Australia, Canberra,

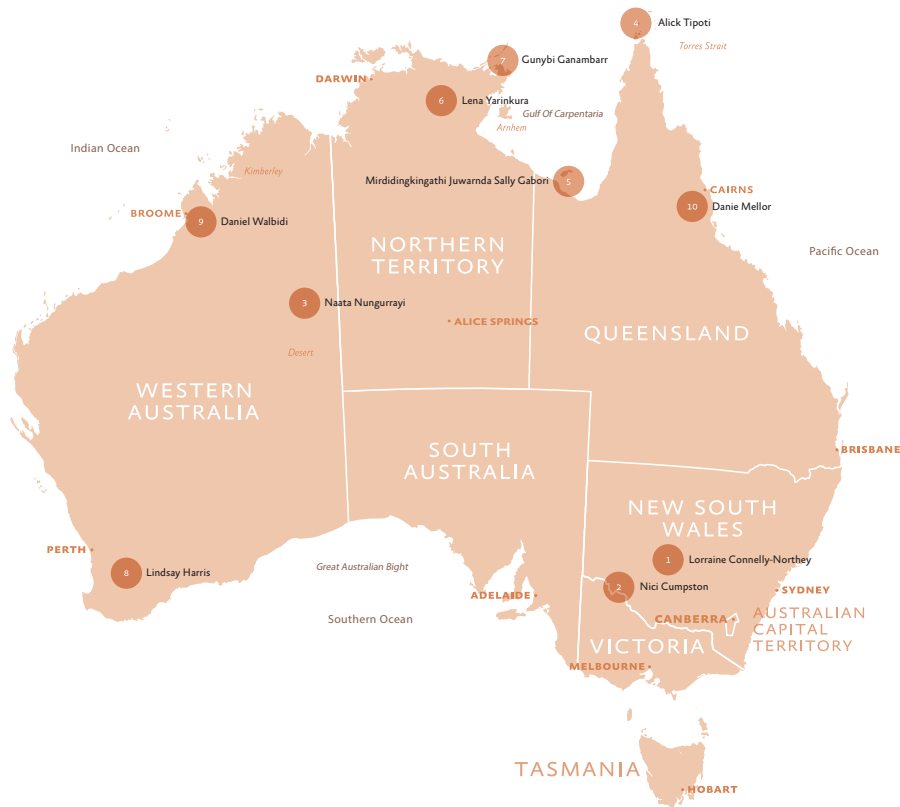
purchased 2011

Courtesy Andrew Baker Art Dealer

Spread your wings



Illustrations by Danie Mellor



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Hi, I'm Rainbow Lorikeet

Come with me on a journey through the second National Indigenous Art Triennial and to 10 different places around Australia.

The pictures in this book will help you find the works of art in the exhibition, and I'll tell you what I know about them. Use this map and the number on each page to discover which part of Australia we are flying over.

One more thing. When I am talking about traditional Aboriginal lands, I'll use the word Country with a capital 'C'.

Are you ready to spread your wings?

Let's go!





1

Lorraine Connelly-Northey

Narrbong 2010



Let's start our journey in the Three Rivers Country in New South Wales. This is where the artist Lorraine Connelly-Northey lives. It is her mother's Country. Connelly-Northey made these large bags, which are called 'narrbong'. Narrbongs are usually made from native grasses and fibres and woven by skilled weavers. They are used to carry food, important personal items and water.

Connelly-Northey's narrbongs are too big to hold and are made from rusted metal sheets and household water-pipes that she has recycled. They are sculptures that honour her Aboriginal heritage and her Irish father's non-Indigenous ways of sourcing water for survival.

Can you see how the rust looks different on each narrbong?



2

Nici Cumpston

Ring boundary tree 2008



Let's follow the rivers to a strange and quiet place called 'Nookamka' (Lake Bonney) in South Australia. Long ago, Aboriginal people lived here. It was beautiful. Then, around 80 years ago, the area was flooded to provide water for European settlers and their cattle and crops. This forced Aboriginal people away from their land.

Nici Cumpston took some sad but beautiful photographs of the lake in 2007 and 2008, after a long drought in the area. The water level was very low, and she could see signs of the Aboriginal people that once lived there. She photographed the place in black-and-white and hand-coloured the pictures.

Can you see the tidemarks on the tree trunks?



3

Naata Nungurrayi

Untitled 2010

Flying inland, we meet women digging for water in desert country. They tell us that, long ago, two ancestor snakes travelled underground to this place and made a waterhole. This story has been passed down for many generations and that is why the women know they will find water here.

They are also collecting raisins and bush tomatoes. Although the country may seem dry, it is rich with food and water if you know where to look. The artist Naata Nungurrayi paints ancestral stories and this land, which she travelled as a young woman.

What colours has the artist chosen to represent the desert?



Alick Tipoti

Koedal Baydham Adhaz Parw (Crocodile Shark) mask 2010

We are as far north as we go in Australia, flying over the Torres Strait Islands in Queensland. Look down into the water. There are turtles, fish and dugong. I once met a gigantic creature here. It was half-crocodile and half-shark and talked to me through razor-sharp teeth.

I don't see it around now but there is a mask that looks just like it. The artist Alick Tipoti made this mask, but it is too large for anyone to wear. Tipoti makes large masks and sculptures like this one to teach young Torres Strait Islander people about their culture.

What animals can you see drawn on the tail of the Crocodile Shark mask?





5

Mirdidingkingathi Juwarnda Sally Gabori

Nyinyilki 2010

We're over Bentinck Island off the coast of north Queensland. The artist Mirdidingkingathi Juwarnda Sally Gabori was born on this island. Her traditional name is Mirdidingkingathi Juwarnda. Mirdidingkingathi means 'born at Mirdidingki' and Juwarnda means 'black dolphin', an animal that is special to the artist.

Gabori now lives on Mornington Island, which is not very far away. She often flies over Bentinck Island and visits when she can. She remembers when she lived here with her family, and she paints the places that are important to her. This painting is of a place called Nyinyilki, where people would catch barramundi.

Can you see the edges of an island in this painting?





6

Lena Yarinkura

Yawkyawk 2010

Let's stop for a drink at a stream. We are in Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. Yawkyawk spirits live here. They also live in other freshwater streams and rock pools in this area known as Stone Country. These spirits look like mermaids. They have fish-like tails and long hair. Yawkyawks are important to the artist Lena Yarinkura.

Yarinkura is special because she was the first person to use weaving to make figures like this yawkyawk. She weaves them from dried pandanus leaves, then paints and decorates them with feathers. She learnt how to weave from her mother and other Elders in her community.

What shapes can you see painted onto the yawkyawk figure?





7

Gunybi Ganambarr

Baraltja 2009

We're flying over the sea, not far from the mangrove creek Baraltja in Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. The lightning snake Burrut'tji lives under the water of the creek near where it flows into the sea. When the season changes and there are lots of storms, Burrut'tji rises up on his tail and shoots lightning into the sky.

The artist Gunybi Ganambarr made this bark painting about Burrut'tji. Bark painters usually use rectangular pieces of bark but Ganambarr is different. He cuts the bark into shapes that help him tell the stories of his people. He also cuts grooves into the bark's surface.

Can you see Burrut'tji the lightning snake?





8

Lindsay Harris

Boya Ngorpung (Rocks with blood)

2010



This is Kwolyin, a small country town in south-west Western Australia. The artist Lindsay Harris grew up here. It was once a busy town but now it's quiet. He paints his childhood memories of the town and the lands around it. These lands are traditionally owned by the Noongar people.

As a Noongar man, Harris cares for this land and is connected to it. He returns there to gather resin from trees and collect different types of earth to make his paints. You could say that a little piece of the land is in every one of Harris's paintings.

Can you see the texture of the resin and earth in this painting?

Daniel Walbidi

Kirriwirri 2010

The land is like a pattern of tiny tiles when you look at it from above. Look, a waterhole. It has shallow purple edges, but it must be deep because it is very dark in the centre. This place is known as Kirriwirri. It is in Yulparitja Country in far north-western Australia. It is the artist Daniel Walbidi's father's Country and his father's father's before that.

Walbidi paints the land around Kirriwirri as if he is flying above it. He uses the colours of the desert: yellow, red, orange and white. His paintings shimmer like the land in the heat of the day.

Can you see how the pattern gets smaller and closer together near the dark, round waterhole?



Danie Mellor

Paradise in the sun 2010

Now, we come to my place. You can see my friends walking through the forest and perched in the trees. It is their home, and mine.

The artist Danie Mellor made this large drawing. It shows two Aboriginal people and lots of native Australian animals, including rainbow lorikeets like me, drawn in colour. To show that the plants are not native to Australia, the artist has drawn them in blue. The drawing tells us that Indigenous people and their culture remain strong, even though others have settled on their lands and changed the environment.

Can you name all the birds and animals in this drawing?





Lorraine Connelly-Northey

Waradgerie people
Narrbong 2010
 rusted iron and pipe
 dimensions variable, 97–251 cm (heights)
 on loan from artist
 © the artist



Alick Tipoti

Kala Lagaw Ya people
Koedal Baydham Adhaz Parw (Crocodile Shark) mask 2010
 fibreglass, synthetic polymer paint,
 Cassowary feathers, feathers, raffia and
 seeds
 130 x 300 x 70 cm
 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra,
 purchased 2010



Nici Cumpston

Barkindji/Paakintji people
Ring boundary tree 2008
 archival inkjet print, pencil and
 watercolour on canvas
 77 x 206 cm
 courtesy private lender



Naata Nungurrayi

Pintupi people
Untitled 2010
 synthetic polymer paint on canvas
 122 x 122 cm
 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra,
 purchased 2010
 © the artist, licensed by Aboriginal Artists
 Agency



**Mirdidingkingathi Juwarnda
 Sally Gabori**

Kaiadilt people
Nyinyilki 2010
 synthetic polymer paint on canvas
 196 x 300 cm
 courtesy private lender



Lindsay Harris

Noongar people
Boya Ngorpung (Rocks with blood) 2010
 resin, natural earth pigments and clay on hemp
 100 x 100 cm
 courtesy private lender



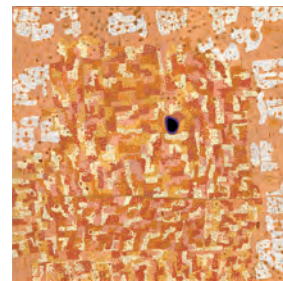
Lena Yarinkura

Rembarnga/Kune peoples
Yawkyawk 2010
 natural earth pigments, feathers and PVA
 fixative on pandanus fibre
 160 x 25 x 15 cm
 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra,
 purchased 2010



Gunybi Ganambarr

Ngaymil people
Baraltja 2009
 natural earth pigments on bark
 165 x 55 cm
 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra,
 purchased 2010



Daniel Walbidi

Mangala/Yulparitja peoples
Kirriwirri 2010
 synthetic polymer paint on canvas
 152.5 x 152.5 cm
 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra,
 purchased 2010



Danie Mellor

Mamu/Ngagen/Ngajan peoples
Paradise in the sun 2010
 pastel, pencil and wash with glitter and
 Swarovski crystal on Saunders Waterford
 paper
 192.5 x 153.5 cm
 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra,
 purchased 2011

That was fun!

I hope you enjoyed our trip through the exhibition *unDisclosed: 2nd National Indigenous Art Triennial*.

Come and visit me again. I'll be happy to take you on another journey.

Goodbye for now.



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