



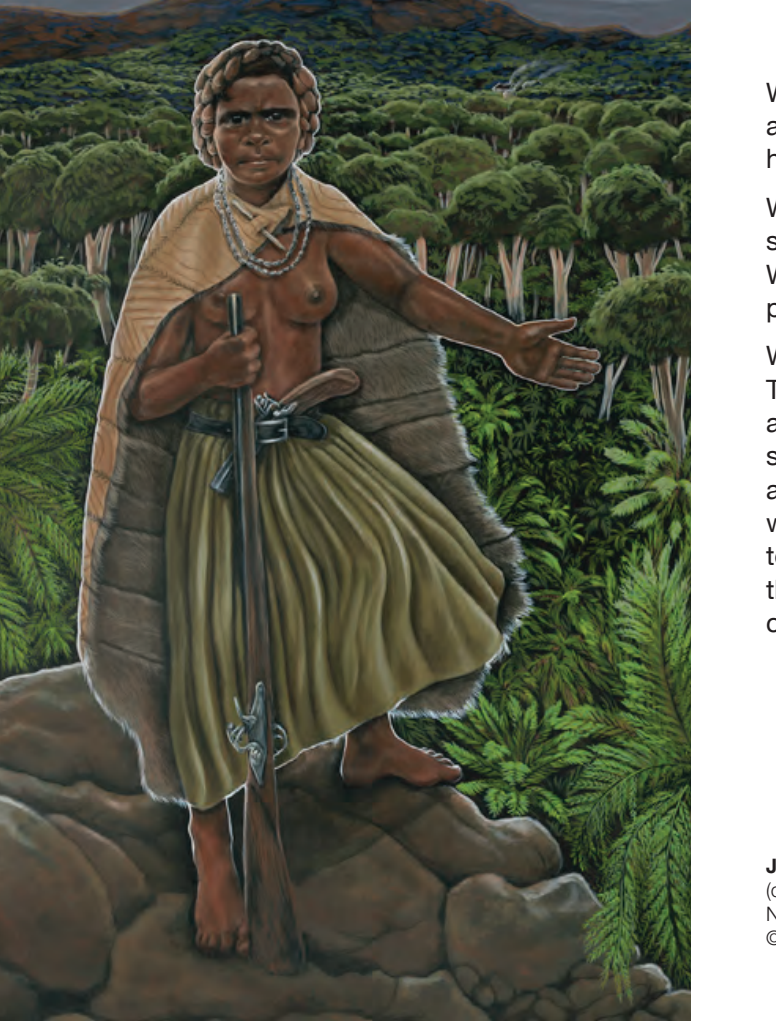
Trail continues...

Principal Sponsor



Jimmy Baker Pitjantjatjara people *Piltati* 2007 (detail) synthetic polymer paint on canvas Courtesy of Jo Lagerberg © Jimmy Baker

(Cover image) Trevor 'Turbo' Brown Latje Latje people *Koala and babies* 2005 (detail) synthetic polymer paint on canvas National Gallery of Australia, Canberra Purchased 2007 © Trevor 'Turbo' Brown



Walyer is wearing a *bookah* (**kangaroo** cloak), a shell necklace and a clay decoration in her hair.

Walyer's face is strong and determined as she stands on the rocks in the light of the moon. What is she carrying with her? What is she pointing to in the distance?

Walyer is a Plair-Leke-Liller-Plue woman from Tasmania who led the fight to defend her land against invading colonial forces. As a teenager, she was abducted by men from another clan and traded to sealers for flour and dogs. While working for them she learnt English and how to use firearms. Walyer represents women of the past and of today who fight for their cultural rights.

Julie Dowling Badimaya/Yamatji/Widi peoples *Walyer* 2006 (detail) synthetic polymer paint and red ochre on canvas National Gallery of Australia, Canberra Purchased 2007 © Ms Julie Dowling



Elaine Russell has painted her memories of growing up at the Murrin Bridge Mission in the 1950s on the Lachlan River in central New South Wales. To add to her family food rations, she caught **yabbies**, trapped possums and with her sister raided an abandoned orchard on the other side of the river.

What trap has been set for the yabbies? Do you know other ways to catch yabbies?

What are the people doing while they wait?

Describe the colours the artist has chosen.

What do you like to do outside or near where you live?

Elaine Russell Kamilaroi people *Catching yabbies* 2006 (detail) synthetic polymer paint on canvas National Gallery of Australia, Canberra Purchased 2006 © Elaine Russell



Palm Island is off the coast of Queensland near Townsville. Judy Watson remembers a visit to this beautiful place. She walked in clear shallow water with **stingrays** swimming around her feet. In this work, the artist also remembers the recent tragic death of a young Aboriginal man, Mulrundji Doomadgee, while he was in police custody on Palm Island. He was a Waanyi man, the same group as Judy Watson.

Judy Watson chose blue because it reminds her of water and is the colour of memory. The white dotted edges on the map of the main island suggest the sparkling of light on the water and the beaches along the coast.

The white circles are like a constellation of stars. How many can you count?

Judy Watson Waanyi people *palm cluster* 2007 (detail) pigment, pastel, synthetic polymer paint and carbon ink National Gallery of Australia, Canberra Purchased 2007 © Judy Watson



Gordon Hookey likes to make people think. His paintings can be outrageous, confronting and funny.

Find the surprise face in the crowd. The rest of the people in the crowd have stockings over their heads to show that they all think the same way.

The men in hats are watching a boxing match. The Aboriginal boxers are the heroes.

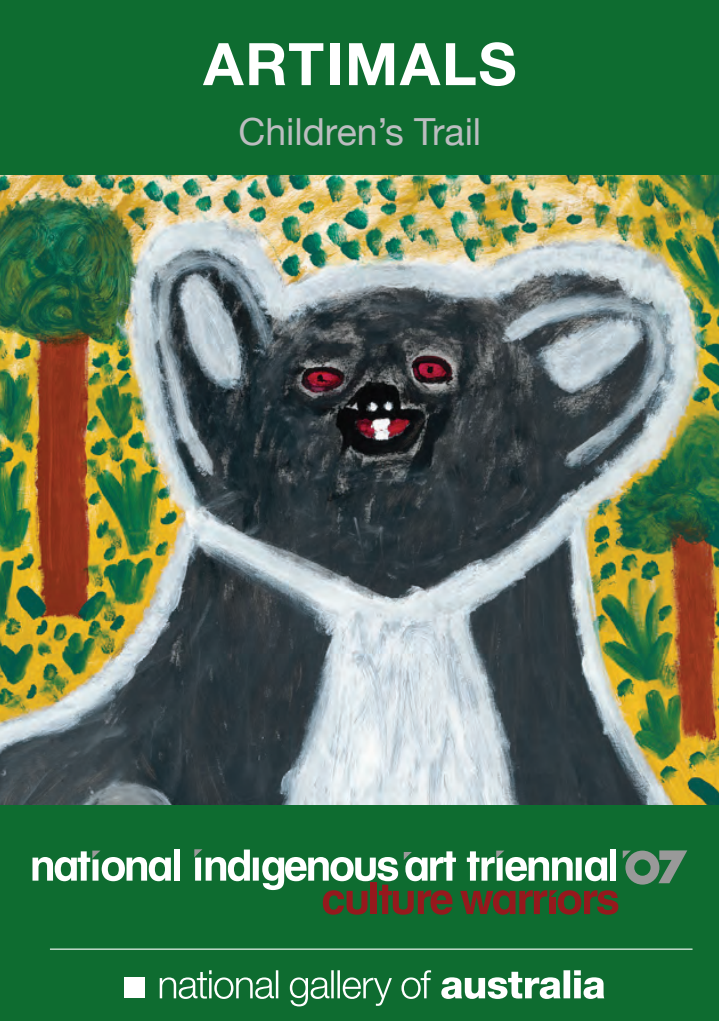
What is the strong man in the centre doing?

What does a **white dove** mean to you?

The **black crow** is like the spirit of the Aboriginal people who have died in police custody, flying away from the jail cell. The white dove is the resting place for the spirits.

The artist believes a nation must respect its first people, land, plants and animals.

Gordon Hookey Waanyi/Waanjinjin peoples *FIGHT: To Survive; To Live; To Die!* 2007 (detail) oil on canvas National Gallery of Australia, Canberra Purchased 2007 © Gordon Hookey



# ARTIMALS

Children's Trail

national indigenous art triennial '07  
culture warriors

national gallery of australia



*Ubirikubiri* is a story and dance of the Torres Strait Islanders and is adapted from Papua New Guinea.

A girl wanted a pet but not a puppy or a piglet. Her father caught a baby **crocodile** that she named Ubirikubiri; it grew very big. The father went on a journey and forgot to look after it. When he returned the crocodile grabbed him and carried him to the river on its back. The girl pleaded with the crocodile to return her father but it would not.

This story reminds us that animals taken from their natural environment must be looked after and treated properly.

Search the crocodile's body to find the pets the daughter did not want.

How has the man changed to become more like the crocodile?

**Dennis Nona** Kala Lagaw Ya (Western Torres Strait Island) people Urban Art Projects, Brisbane, fabricators *Ubirikubiri* 2007 bronze and pearlshell National Gallery of Australia, Canberra Purchased 2007 Courtesy of the artist and the Australian Art Print Network



This installation has many parts, including animals and a tree and a separate work made up of shields.

How many Australian native animals can you name?

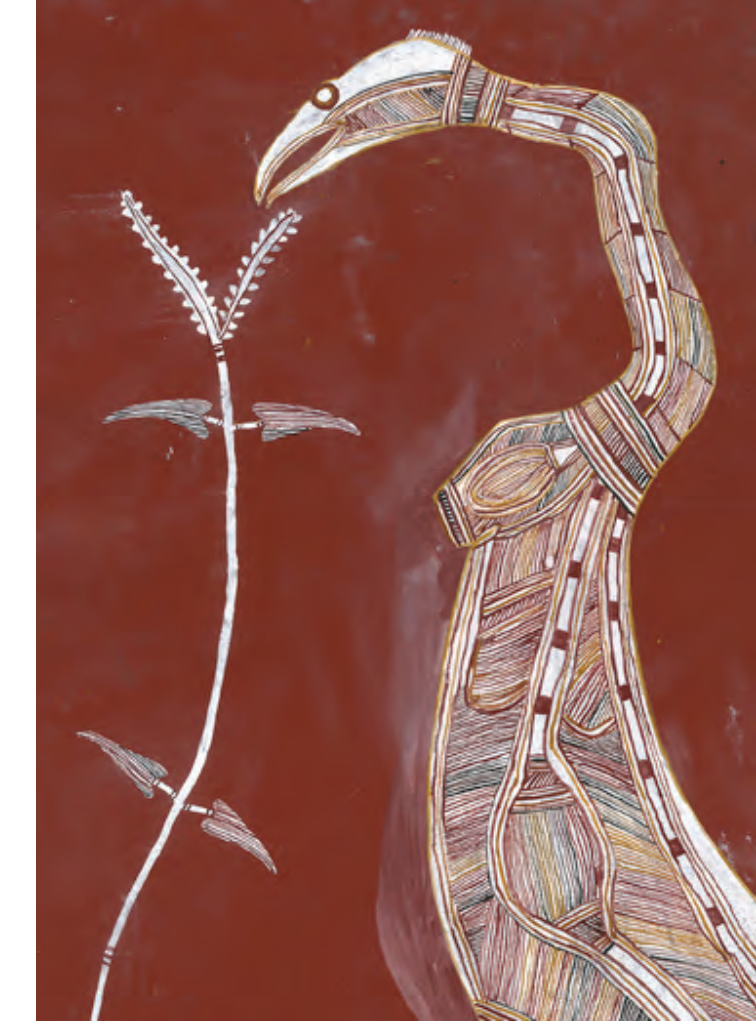
Which two animals in the installation are also found on the Australian coat of arms?

What parts of the installation are real and what part has the artist made?

The **kangaroos** are covered with a mosaic of blue and white china popular at the time of European settlement of Australia.

The shields represent Aboriginal shields from the rainforest region of far north Queensland. They are cut from the lids of old rusty metal travelling trunks so we remember how the arrival of European settlers to Australia affected Aboriginal people.

**Danie Mellor** Mamu/Ngagen/Ngajan peoples *The contrivance of a vintage wonderland (A magnificent flight of curious fancy for science buffs ... a china ark of seductive whimsy ... a divinely ordered special attraction ... upheld in multifariousness)* 2007 (detail) installation mixed media, kangaroo skin, ceramic, synthetic eyeballs, wood and birds © Danie Mellor



The artist Wamud Namok has used natural earth pigments to make the colours in this painting of an **emu**.

What is the emu eating? (Emus eat leaves, grasses, fruits, native plants, seeds, insects, other small animals and animal droppings).

What can you see painted on the inside of the emu? Explain the path the food will take.

The emu has no arms, but its other body parts are long and strong. What does the emu use to eat?

Wamud Namok lives in Arnhem Land.

**Wamud Namok AO** Kundedjnjenghmi people, Mok clan, Wamud/Na-Kodjok affiliation *Kurdukaaj (Emu)* 2004 (detail) natural earth pigments on paper National Gallery of Australia, Canberra © Wamud Namok, Injalak Arts



Treahna Hamm belongs to the Yorta Yorta people of northern Victoria. The Murray River environment is important to her.

Look at the Barmah Forest on either side of the river. The trees are like spirit figures. Canoe trees and burial sites can be found in the forest. What can you see in the water?

Treahna and her friends restarted the tradition of making *Biganga* or **possum**-skin cloaks. This cloak is made from the skin of the common brushtail possum.

Before 1850 most Aboriginal people in south-east Australia wore possum skin cloaks to keep warm and dry. Later, the government gave out blankets which were not waterproof so people got sick.

**Treahna Hamm** Yorta Yorta people *Barmah nurrtja biganga (Barmah Forest possum-skin cloak)* 2005 (detail) common brushtail possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) skin pelts, thread and natural earth pigments National Gallery of Australia, Canberra Purchased 2007 © Treahna Hamm



The *yawkyawk* is a female water spirit, a little like a mermaid. She has a **fish** tail and reed-like hair. They live in sacred freshwater streams and rock pools and can leave the water and walk about at night. Family stories tell how these spirit beings turned into animal forms at the time of creation and still exist today.

What materials has the artist used to make this sculpture?

What colours can you see? The leaf fibres are dyed with natural dyes from roots, berries springand bark.

Compare this *yawkyawk* to the others in the exhibition.

Anniebell Marrngamarrnga lives in Western Arnhem Land. Her mother taught her to weave and her father taught her to paint.

**Anniebell Marrngamarrnga** Kuninjku people, Bangardidjan subsection, *Yirritja moiety Yawkyawk mother and babies* 2006 natural earth pigments dyed on woven pandanus (*Pandanus spiralis*) National Gallery of Australia, Canberra Purchased 2007 © Anniebell Marrngamarrnga, courtesy Maningrida Arts & Culture