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Yalangbara: art of the Djang'kawu

Margie West

Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT)



Yalangbara
art of the Djang'kawu

Yalangbara is the first Indigenous art publication to focus upon one significant ancestral site. It has been produced on behalf of members of the Rirratjingu clan to celebrate Yalangbara (Port Bradshaw), the landing site of the Djang'kawu ancestors; the law-givers and progenitors of the people throughout north-east Arnhem Land. Their creative activities are depicted by three generations of talented Marika artists, including Mawalan 1, Mathaman, Milirrpum, Roy, Wandjuk, Banduk, Dhuwarrwarr, Mawalan 2, Jimmy Barrmula and Wanyubi Marika. The accompanying text examines aspects of Yolngu (Aboriginal) aesthetics and material culture, history, myth, land ownership and copyright to show the complex interrelationship of these themes in Yolngu life.

Margie West AM holds the honorary position of Emeritus Curator of Aboriginal Art at the Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. She is an anthropologist with over thirty years of curatorial experience in Indigenous art. Since 1972 she has curated over forty semi-permanent and touring Aboriginal art exhibitions and has published extensively on Aboriginal art.

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