



Art Gallery
of Western Australia



preview summer 09

Foreword



Since I commenced my tenure as the new Director in October, I have been wandering around our galleries with a sense of pride for the great work done by the staff and my predecessors. Like the many visitors enjoying our current exhibitions and the engaging *Wonderlust* permanent collection display, I find them a source of continuous wonderment and a learning and gratifying experience.

The superb accomplishments demonstrated by the *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards* finalists can be viewed until 11 January. You can now vote online for your favourite artist. The People's Choice Award of \$5,000 will be selected by online votes and a visitor ballot during the exhibition. Online voting is open to everyone, but I strongly encourage those who can to come into the Gallery to view the original artworks and vote in person.

During summer the exhibition program is varied and exciting. We are delighted to present the acclaimed *Gordon Bennett*, a National Gallery of Victoria Touring Exhibition. For the 2009 Perth International Arts Festival we are pleased to host *Larrakitj*. This exhibition is another of our successful collaborations with the Kerry Stokes Collection, a relationship which we hope to continue in future years. *Larrakitj* is shown alongside *Yirrkala: Everywhen Bark Paintings from the State Art Collection*. *Everywhen* is one of our regular *Artist in focus* exhibitions, and highlights the wealth and quality of the Gallery's Indigenous collection.

There is always great anticipation surrounding our annual, and extremely popular exhibition, *Year 12 Perspectives*, which celebrates the achievements of our young Western Australian artists. I am also looking forward to *THING beware the material world*. This exhibition will open visitors' eyes to an exciting new world where everyday objects, especially furniture, come to life as a splendid combination of functionality, innovative design, aesthetic quality and artistic substance.

Children, and probably also their parents, will have a blast during the school holidays when 60,000 white Lego pieces will be available for them to build whatever their fancy dictates. Don't miss this opportunity which takes place for only nine days, from 10–18 January. Session times will be available on our website, which we encourage you to visit regularly as we plan to add many new features in 2009.

I would particularly like to thank Wesfarmers Arts for being our Principal Partner and for sponsoring our Walk-in Tours, which I hope many of you will have the opportunity to enjoy. I would also like to extend my gratitude to all the Gallery's supporters – large and small. In my first two months here I have been overwhelmed by the warm welcome I have received from everyone I have met and I look forward to offering my contribution to this impressive and talented institution in the years to come. I invite you all to participate in all the exhibitions, public programs and events at your Gallery in 2009.

Stefano Carboni, *Director*

Cover:

Baluka Maymuru, 1941–

Mangalili Larrakitj 2002 (detail)

earth pigments on naturally hollowed log, h. 256 cm

Kerry Stokes Collection, Perth

Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards 2008

Until 11 January 2009

There was a real buzz at the opening of the inaugural *Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards* on 31 October 2008. You could feel the level of excitement and anticipation rising within the audience as it waited for the Premier of Western Australia to announce the national winner of the \$50,000 Western Australian Indigenous Art Award and winner of the \$10,000 Western Australian Artist Award.

The Art Gallery of Western Australia and the awards selection panel commend each of the 16 finalists for the quality of their work and thank them for their outstanding contribution to the first awards exhibition. Congratulations particularly go to Western Australian artists Patrick Tjungurrayi – winner of the \$50,000 major award, and June Walkutjukurr Richards – winner of the \$10,000 WA artist award.

Tjungurrayi's paintings are remarkable for their originality, harmony, and lyricism, and for how they extend the dynamic Western Desert style in new directions. Richards' text and figurative paintings are also exceptional. Her works are refreshing, heartfelt, and direct in the way they deal with contemporary issues faced by Indigenous artists today.

Vote for your favourite artist in the \$5,000 People's Choice Award. Votes can be cast at the Gallery or online until 4 January 2009 at: <http://www.artgallery.wa.gov.au/exhibitions/PeoplesChoiceAward.asp>

The winner of the People's Choice Award will be announced on 6 January 2009.



Patrick Tjungurrayi *Untitled* 2006
acrylic on linen, 183.0 x 244.0 cm
Courtesy of Barry Fitzgerald
Image © the artist, courtesy Papunya Tula Artists



June Walkutjukurr Richards *The Policeman* 2006
acrylic on canvas, 67.8 x 109.1 cm
Courtesy Warburton Collection
Image © June Walkutjukurr Richards

Gordon Bennett

Until 22 March 2009

A National Gallery of Victoria Touring Exhibition

Since his first major solo exhibition in 1989, Gordon Bennett has been critically acclaimed for the complex ways his work engages with historical and contemporary issues of cultural and personal identity in the context of Australia's colonial past and its postcolonial present. The exhibition will present twenty years of the artist's work from his early expressionist figurative paintings to his more recent engagement with abstraction.

Bennett is equally preoccupied with the visual language of words, signs and symbols as instruments of marginalisation. The State Art Collection's monumental *Painting for a new republic (The inland sea)* 1994, sums up the importance of the mirror motif in Bennett's practice as an emblem of a Eurocentric value system. In this work, the artist represents the opposing historical realities of the coloniser and colonised on the left and

right side of his canvas, contrasting the activities of European explorers with the human cost of colonisation. The central mirror image links the two sides, alluding to a possible different perspective.

SUNDAY SESSION FREE FLOOR TALK

Sunday 15 March at 2pm

Join Associate Professor Ian McLean from the Visual Arts Department at UWA to discuss this important contemporary Australian artist and take a tour through the exhibition.

Advisory Message

Please be advised that some artwork in this exhibition contains graphic material that may not be suitable for all audiences.

Gordon Bennett *Painting for a new republic (The inland sea)* 1994
synthetic polymer paint on canvas, 232.0 x 507.0 cm
State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia
Gift of the Friends of the Art Gallery, 1995 © Courtesy of the artist



Yirrkala Everywhen Bark Paintings from the State Art Collection

31 January – 31 May 2009

Everywhen, an *Artist in focus* exhibition, explores the richness and beauty of bark paintings from the Yirrkala region of North East Arnhem Land. This exhibition will survey selected works from the State Art Collection, including many that were acquired by collector Louis Allen between the late 1900s and 1970s.

It is difficult to define Indigenous relationships to the land, systems of belief, law and tradition ceremony in a way that easily transfers into the English language or a Western understanding. In 1968, anthropologist and theorist W.E.H. Stanner described what is commonly known as the 'Dreaming' using the term 'everywhen'. 'Everywhen' describes something that is somewhat timeless, not fixed in the past but part of the present and the future, all at the same time.

Works in this exhibition illustrate contemporary issues, clan titles to land and identity, Creation Beings and the formation of the physical and the metaphysical. As the term 'everywhen' describes a state of always, these works are timeless contemporaneous pieces of art in their own right, imbued with immense cultural wealth and aesthetic value as fine art.

This exhibition and the accompanying publication signal the culmination of the inaugural three-year Indigenous Curatorial Internship for Chad Creighton, who has completed a post-graduate Diploma in Applied Heritage Studies at Curtin alongside three years of technical on the job training in museology at the Gallery. Chad's internship was supported by AngloGold Ashanti Australia Pty Ltd, Carey Mining Pty Ltd, Downer EDI Pty Ltd and Curtin University of Technology. The partnership has been recognised twice, with a 2006 Western Australian Business and the Arts Partnership Award and a 2008 state Australian Business Arts Foundation award.

Djambawa Marawili

Baru Ga Yathikpa - Crocodile dreaming 1984

ochres on stringy bark (eucalyptus)

159 x 63 cm

State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia

Purchased 1984



Larrakitj

Kerry Stokes Collection

13 February – 31 May 2009

Since 2000, a forest of Larrakitj has been gradually taking shape in Perth. Now the public has the opportunity to see this unique collection of Larrakitj for the first time in this free exhibition at the Art Gallery of Western Australia. The Larrakitj collection displays work by Yolngu artists from North East Arnhem Land.

Larrakitj are sculptures that originate as trees in stringybark forests. Hollowed out by termites, trees selected for Larrakitj are usually harvested after the dry season fires. A cultural cycle then begins as the trunks are smoothed and shaped until the surface is ready to be painted in ochres. Each Larrakitj, with its clan-specific imagery, is an imposing presence.

Covered in iconic imagery of sea and land, saltwater and freshwater, each Larrakitj presents a deeply layered experience of people, places and clans from Blue Mud Bay to Arnhem Bay.

The past decade has been revolutionary for Larrakitj, which are now among the most powerful aesthetic objects in contemporary Australian art. Their realm of importance now reaches beyond their deep cultural use as receptacles in traditional funeral rituals or their role as metaphor and symbol in the Yolngu conceptual universe.

On display are works by men and women from two generations. The exhibition contains and promotes an energising conversation about the public and personal, the past and the present, about tradition and innovation.

The artists in this exhibition are represented by Buku-Larrnggay Mulka, a Yolngu-owned arts centre and cultural hub of Yirrkala, an Indigenous township on the western side of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Larrakitj: The Kerry Stokes Collection is curated by Anne Brody, Associate Curator of the Kerry Stokes Collection. *Larrakitj* is presented by the Art Gallery of Western Australia and Australian Capital Equity and is a feature exhibition of the 2009 Perth International Arts Festival.



Left: **Nawurapu Wunungmurra**, 1952– Garraparra Larrakitj 2003 (detail), earth pigments on naturally hollowed log, h. 216 cm. Kerry Stokes Collection, Perth
Right: **Djirirra Wunungmurra**, 1960– Buyku Larrikitj 2007 (detail), earth pigments on naturally hollowed log, h. 304 cm. Kerry Stokes Collection, Perth

Year 12 Perspectives 2008

Opens 8 April 2009

The selection process has been finalised for *Year 12 Perspectives 2008*, and once again we have been struck by the diversity, dynamism and creativity of young artists in this state. *Year 12 Perspectives* has become a much-loved fixture on the Art Gallery's annual calendar and is a showcase and forum for emerging talent to connect with the wider public and explore a range of subjects and themes important to young people today.

This year 56 works have been selected from across Western Australia, and in a continuing commitment to cross-cultural engagement, 17 works from young artists in Japan will also be featured in the exhibition, through the generous support of the International Foundation for Arts and Culture. The Art Gallery of Western Australia is sure that this year's *Year 12 Perspectives* will continue to inspire, amaze and delight visitors.



Ellie Wilson

Kalamunda Senior High School TEE Art
Imagination 2008
mixed media on canvas
91 x 122 cm

THING beware the material world

Opens 18 April 2009

THING beware the material world is a bold new exhibition that celebrates the human impulse to shape and re-shape the world around us. Including objects made from processes that range across hi-tech machining, creative recycling and delicate handcrafting, *THING* features furniture, lighting, jewellery, sculpture, and photography from around the globe.



Atelier van Lieshout

Sensory deprivation skull 2007
reinforced fibreglass, 150 x 110 x 137cm
State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia
Purchased 2008 © Atelier Van Lieshout



Wonderlust

Wonderlust is a dynamic presentation of the State Art Collection, featuring Indigenous, Australian and International art, craft and design acquired since the Gallery's inception in 1895.

The exhibition aims to transform the visitor's experience of, and access to, the Collection through new journeys of discovery organised around five key themes: *Home, Mapping, Presence, Story, Material Gesture*.

Wonderlust includes a dedicated children's activity area, *wonderland*.

Take a journey through your Collection and explore some of the complex relationships between people and water via artworks in the *Wonderlust Water Walk*.

The Gallery has produced a range of brochures, *Wonderlust Self-Guided Tours*, to assist you in your own self-paced tour, according to your interests and mood.

The Sensational Art Program offers booked, guided touch tours and hands on art activities for sight impaired visitors, *Wonderlust Touch Tours*.

Ever wondered ... check our website!

<http://www.artgallery.wa.gov.au/exhibitions/index.asp>



Richard Morrell

View of Fremantle, Western Australia. From Church Hill, East of the town. August 1832
pen, ink and watercolour, 21 x 32.5cm
State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia
Purchased 1940

Calendar

JANUARY

Western Australian Indigenous Art Awards, 2008

until 11 January

Build with LEGO!

10 – 18 January

Artist in focus

Yirrkala Everywhen bark paintings from the State Art Collection

31 January – 31 May



FEBRUARY

Larrakitj Kerry Stokes Collection

13 February – 31 May

APRIL

Year 12 Perspectives 2008

8 April – 19 July



School Holiday Fun

11 April – 26 April

THING

beware the material world

18 April – 5 July



School Holiday Fun This Summer

CHILDREN'S ART TRAIL

Until Sunday 1 Feb 2009

10am – 4pm daily

Gold coin donation.

Our very popular Art Trail returns for the summer holidays! Solve the clues to discover the hidden secrets of the Gallery and its artworks. Complete the trail and enter the draw to win a fantastic pack of art supplies! The trail is designed for two age groups, 5–8 years and 9–13 years old.



Julie Dowling *Money: Before pension day* 1999
synthetic polymer paint, ochre and gold on canvas, 107.0 x 83.0 cm
State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia
Purchased 1999

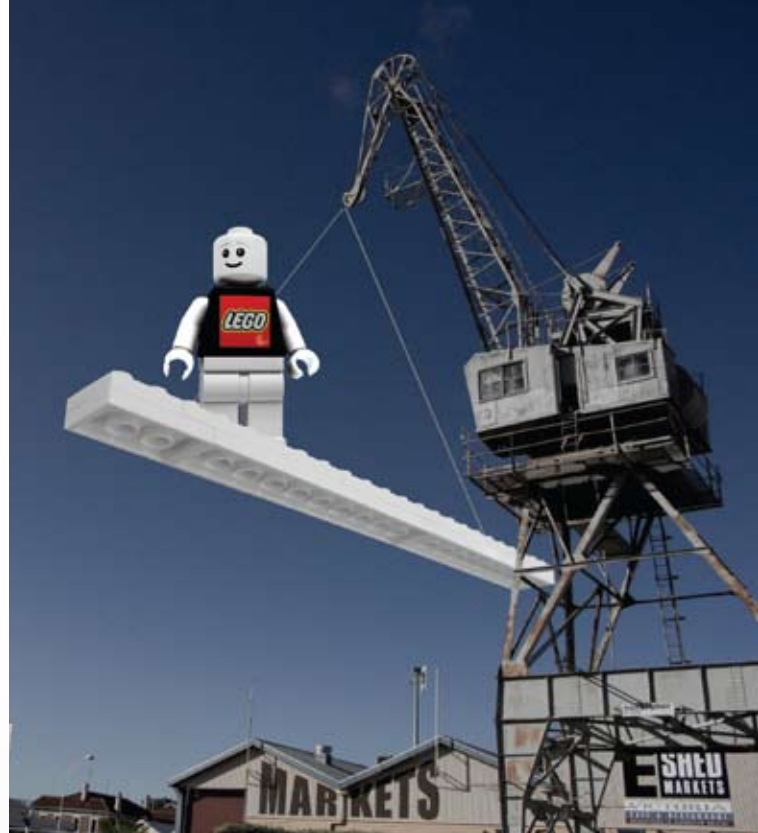


Image courtesy of Fremantle Architects Christmas Party Society.
Sponsored by Fielders, ARUP, Lego, Danpalon, Dulux, Gaggenau,
Gainborough & Miele.

BUILD WITH LEGO!

10 – 18 January 2009

10am - 12pm daily

Gold coin donation.

Shape the future with your own architectural creations. Thousands of pieces of white Lego will be available for a limited time for children to construct their own buildings and vision of the future. Located in Gallery rest area 1 & 2.

The Art Trail and art-making activities are suitable for primary school aged children. No booking is required. Parents/carers must supervise their children at all times. Activities can be subject to change: please check our website for current details. www.artgallery.wa.gov.au

Generously guided by Volunteer Gallery Guides

JANUARY

Tuesday 6, 13, 20, 27 at 11am and 1pm

Presence – Wonderlust

Wednesday 7, 14, 21, 28 at 11am and 1pm

Gordon Bennett

Thursday 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 11am and 1pm

Home – Wonderlust

Friday Focus 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 12.30pm

***Snow scene, Valmondois*
by Charles-François Daubigny**

Friday 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 2pm

Mapping – Wonderlust

Saturday 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 1pm

A tour of your Collection

Sunday 4, 11, 18, 25 at 11am and 1pm

Gordon Bennett

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 3, 10, 17, 24 at 11am and 1pm

Three dimensional works in Wonderlust

Wednesday 4, 11, 18, 25 at 11am and 1pm

**Artist in Focus: Yirrkala Everywhen Bark Paintings
from the State Art Collection**

Thursday 5, 12, 19, 26 at 11am and 1pm

Works on paper from Wonderlust

Friday Focus 6, 13, 20, 27 at 12.30pm

Boyd's Tapestry

Friday 6, 13, 20, 27 at 2pm

Gordon Bennett

Saturday 7, 14, 21, 28 at 1pm

A tour of your Collection

Sunday 1, 8, 15, 22 at 11am and 1pm

**Artist in Focus: Yirrkala Everywhen Bark Paintings
from the State Art Collection**



Charles-François Daubigny

Snow scene, Valmondois 1875

oil on canvas, 88.7 x 153.3 cm

State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia

Purchased 1904

MARCH

Tuesday 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 at 11am and 1pm

**Exploring the human form within a narrative
Story – Wonderlust**

Wednesday 4, 11, 18, 25 at 11am and 1pm

Larrakitj: Kerry Stokes Collection

Thursday 5, 12, 19, 26 at 11am and 1pm

**Traditional and contemporary relationships
between people and place
Presence – Wonderlust**

Friday Focus 6, 13, 20, 27 at 12.30pm

Monochrome by Karl Wiebke

Friday 6, 13, 20, 27 at 2pm

**Artist in Focus: Yirrkala Everywhen Bark Paintings
from the State Art Collection**

Saturday 7, 14, 21, 28 at 1pm

The Changing Australian Landscape

Sunday 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 11am and 1pm

Larrakitj: Kerry Stokes Collection

** Advertised tours may be subject to change.*

We apologise for any inconvenience.

Introducing our new Foundation Manager

The Foundation is pleased to introduce Teresa Pizzata into the role of Foundation Manager. Teresa commenced work at the Gallery on 19 November 2008. She holds a Bachelor in Communications, having majored in Public Relations and Mass Communication and has a background in working for the Not-for-Profit-sector.

Teresa has a strong interest in philanthropy and is very much looking forward to building relationships with existing and new Foundation Members.

The 2009 program of events and activities for Foundation members will be available in the new year, enabling members to develop a rewarding relationship with art, artists and Gallery staff.

Should you have any queries about the Foundation please feel free to contact Teresa on 9492 6761.
Email: teresa.pizzata@artgallery.wa.gov.au
or Lyn-Marie Hegarty, Foundation Director, on 9492 6760.
Email: lyn-marie.hegarty@artgallery.wa.gov.au

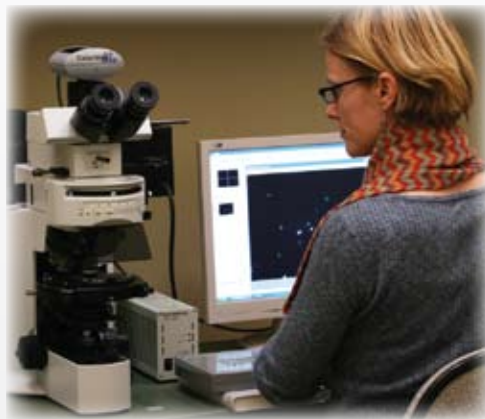


Paintings conservation

There are many layers which make up a painting, each consisting of materials which behave and age differently. Understanding how these layers interact is the business of Maria Kubik, the Art Gallery's paintings conservator.

To help Maria better assess the needs of the Collection, the Gallery has recently acquired a polarised light microscope and infrared reflection system. The information this provides helps decide what form of conservation is required. Treatment may be as simple as fitting preventive glazing, or more extensive, such as retouching losses or structural repairs. One of the most rewarding treatments is removing a deteriorated varnish layer, which leads to a visible improvement in a painting's appearance. Several examples of recently cleaned paintings are on display in the current *Wonderlust* exhibition.

For a more detailed description of the varnish removal of Daubigny's *Snow scene, Valmondois*, 1875 see the new conservation web page at: www.artgallery.wa.gov.au/collections/Conservation.asp



Art Gallery of Western Australia

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Opening hours
10am – 5pm daily

Admission to the Gallery is free although donations are encouraged.
An entry charge may apply to special exhibitions.

Public programs/bookings
Telephone: +61 8 9492 6644 Facsimile: +61 8 9492 6648
E-mail: educate@artgallery.wa.gov.au

Art Gallery Foundation
The Foundation provides an opportunity for private individuals and corporations to play a significant role in the development of the Art Gallery of Western Australia.
Telephone: +61 8 9492 6761 Facsimile: +61 8 9492 6767
E-mail: foundation@artgallery.wa.gov.au

Friends of the Art Gallery
Membership enables closer involvement with the Gallery.
Telephone: +61 8 9492 6750 Facsimile: +61 8 9492 6755
E-mail: friends@artgallery.wa.gov.au

Gallery for Hire
The Gallery offers itself as one of Perth's most impressive venues that can be utilised for meetings, theatre presentations, product launches, exclusive cocktail parties, formal dinners and special events.
Telephone: +61 8 9492 6771 Facsimile: +61 8 9492 6767
Email: functions@artgallery.wa.gov.au

The Gallery Shop
A fabulous range of items including gifts and jewellery and an extensive selection of products for children.
Telephone: +61 8 9492 6712 Facsimile: +61 8 9492 6717
E-mail: shop@artgallery.wa.gov.au

Caffissimo at the Gallery
Take a break from your visit to the Gallery and enjoy a morning coffee, lunch or afternoon tea. Licensed Café.
Special offers available for Friends and Foundation members.
Ask in the Friends/Foundation offices for details.
Telephone: +61 8 9228 3100

Regional Galleries

Geraldton Regional Art Gallery
24 Chapman Road, Geraldton WA 6530
Telephone: +61 8 9964 7170/7180
E-mail: artgallery@geraldton.wa.gov.au

Bunbury Regional Art Galleries
64 Wittenoom Street, Bunbury WA 6230
Telephone: +61 8 9721 8616
E-mail: mail@brag.org.au

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Gordon Bennett



Indigenous program sponsors



Water Walk



Online Collection



Larrakitj
Kerry Stokes Collection

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL EQUITY
Pty. Limited



Location



This is the Gallery's quarterly publication which contains all the latest information on exhibitions, events and public tours. If you would like to receive it by email, together with our electronic newsletter, please log on to <http://www.artgallery.wa.gov.au/publications/previewmag.htm> If you are already a subscriber please be sure to update any change of contact details.