

YOLŊU POWER

We acknowledge the Gadigal, the traditional custodians of the Country on which the Art Gallery of New South Wales stands.

How do you say the letter ŋ?
Ŋ or ŋ sounds like 'ng' in sing or ring.
It's one of several special letters in the
Yolŋu alphabet to indicate certain sounds.

THE ART OF YIRRKALA CHILDREN'S TRAIL



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Luminous leader

Using repeating lines and shapes, create a detailed design that represents you.



Mawalan Marika *Figure of Djan'kawu, ancestral being of the Dhuwa moiety* 1960, natural pigments, human hair and feathers on wood, 74.5 x 22 x 9 cm, Art Gallery of New South Wales, gift of Dr Stuart Scougall 1960

Mawalan Marika used wood, pigments, feathers and hair to create this carefully decorated sculpture of an important figure. The designs on the body symbolise a deep connection to country, family and law.

Notice the materials used in this sculpture. Where did each one come from?

At home, make a sculpture from gathered materials to represent an important person in your life.

In his art, Wongu Munungurr depicted Yolŋu life in rich detail. This drawing of a Macassan prau (boat) represents the long and continuing exchange between Yolŋu and people in Indonesia.

How many boats can you find in this image? What do the blue areas remind you of?

Draw an object that you would take on a long journey to remind you of home.



At home, work together with a friend or family member to create an artwork about a shared memory.

Trading places

Fleeing the fire

Gaymala Yunupingu's print depicts three frightened wan'kurra (bandicoots) and four djirikitj (quail) running away from a dry-season bushfire.

Notice and describe the colours and linework. Find the wan'kurra and djirikitj.

Think of an animal or bird that you know and draw it in its home.



Gaymala Yunupingu *Wan'kurra ga djirikitj* 2001, screenprint, 54 x 37 cm, courtesy Bulku-Larrgaj Mulka Centre, Yirrkala

At home, find out about the different seasons in the top end of Australia.



Mulkun Wirrpanda experimented with composition, line and colour to depict important plants. She used her senses to discover the unique rhythms and patterns of each plant.

Find a plant in this image. Notice how it is segmented. Describe the patterns surrounding each part of the plant.

Picture a garden or bush scene in your mind. Draw different sections of the scene in the space below.

At home, find a plant and use all your senses to describe it. Write a poem about what you see, smell, touch, hear and feel.

Language of plants

Cutting edge

Gunybi Ganambarr's innovative art draws on ideas from the past to make new and exciting forms. This artwork features a jagged coastline cut into delicately painted bark.

Find the shape of the coastline.
How does the artist suggest patterns of water?



Gunybi Ganambarr *Coastline of Girdal Bay* 2016, natural pigments and sand on incised bark, 112 x 43 cm, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Mollie Gowing Acquisition Fund for Contemporary Aboriginal Art 2016

Without lifting your pencil from the page, draw the outline of a place you know well.

At home, look down at your body and draw yourself from this view. Notice how your form resembles a landscape.

Naminapu Maymuru-White paints black-and-white trails of stars travelling in Milnjiyawuy – a river on earth and in the sky, as the Milky Way.

How many stars can you count in this painting? Notice their journey and where they cluster.



Naminapu Maymuru-White *Milnjiyawuy*, 2023, natural pigments on bark, 239 x 92 cm, collection of Ursula Sullivan and Joanna Strumpf



River of stars

Use straight lines and your imagination to draw connections between these points, creating your own constellations.

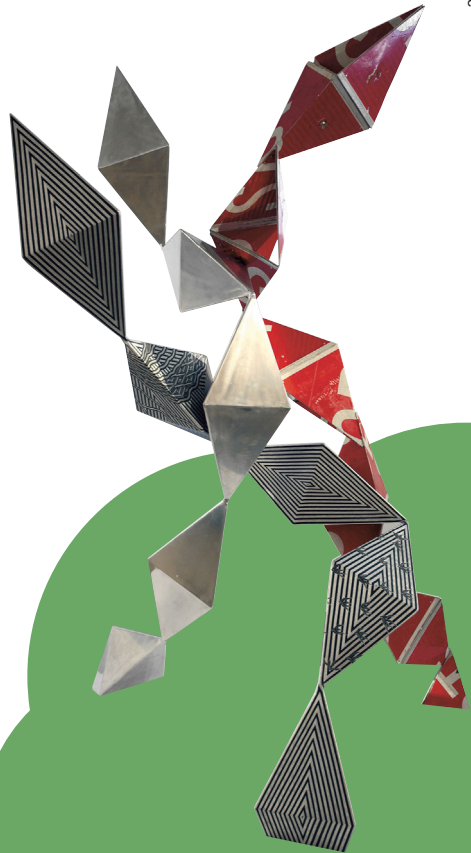
At home, go outside after dark on a clear night and find the stars of the Milky Way.

Fire and water

Wurrandan Marawili has sculpted metal signs into three-dimensional threads of diamonds. They appear to twist and turn like gamata (seagrass), or the flames ignited by Bäru the crocodile.

Observe this sculpture from all sides, then mimic the movement of gamata.

Wurrandan Marawili *Gamata* – flames beneath the sea 2024, etched aluminium, enamel spray paint and street sign, 258 x 155 x 180 cm, Hassall Collection, Gadgal Nura/Marrame



Draw a shape with sharp corners. From each corner, draw another shape, growing your design.

At home, twist and scrunch aluminium foil into a sculptural form that creates a sense of movement.