Yolnu power: the art of Yirrkala

RAP group discussion guide



This guide is designed to support meaningful discussion following your visit to *Yolnu power: the art of Yirrkala*.

Prior to meeting with your team, we suggest taking the time to consider how the questions apply to your group and how you can proactively and respectfully facilitate understanding of Yolnu culture and broader ideas of reconciliation.

- 1. Yolnu power: the art of Yirrkala begins with an invitation: 'Slow down, walk with us'. How did this invitation shape your experience, and how did the exhibition show you the circularity of Yolnu time?
- 2. Reflect on how Yolnu artists represent Country in their work and discuss your understanding of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander concept of Country. Is there a specific artwork from the exhibition that deepened your understanding of Country?
- 3. Reflect on the importance of the *Rumbal* series (2022–23). Why do you think this series was created by the artists?
- 4. Discuss Yolnu sovereignty and how it sits outside and alongside Crown sovereignty. Do you think all First Nations communities experience the same sense of collective sovereignty? Why, or why not?
- 5. How do Yolnu artists innovate with materials while staying true to cultural law? Discuss the importance of using materials found on Country in Yolnu art-making today.
- 6. Consider how Indigenous knowledge is transferred between generations. How do you think it has changed since colonisation and how did you see this evidenced within the exhibition?
- 7. How do you define cultural competency within your organisation or association? In what ways has your visit to *Yolnu power* contributed to your individual and collective understanding of it, and what does cultural competency ask of each of us in our respective roles and contexts?
- 8. Consider reconciliation priorities for First Nations communities. What role does art and culture play in achieving those goals?