



NEWCOMB

ART MUSEUM *at Tulane*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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high-resolution images available upon request

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MARKING THE INFINITE
Major Touring Exhibition of Australian Aboriginal Art to Debut at Tulane

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Tulane's Newcomb Art Museum is proud to present *Marking the Infinite: Contemporary Women Artists from Aboriginal Australia*, a landmark traveling exhibition of contemporary indigenous art. The show's North American tour debuts with a four-month stay at Newcomb before continuing on to some of the most prestigious museums in the United States and Canada.

"It is an honor to share with the New Orleans community such a historically significant exhibition," noted museum director Monica Ramirez-Montagut. "These nine Aboriginal women create contemporary work not only of exceptional visual beauty, but also art that embodies the world's oldest living cultural history."

Hailing from remote areas across the island continent, the show's artists are Regina Pilawuk Wilson, Angelina Pwerle, Carlene West, Gulumbu Yunupingu, Lena Yarinkura, Nonggirnga Marawili, Nypanyapa Yunupingu, Wintjiya Napaltjarri, and Yukultji Napangati. All but Gulumbu Yunupingu and Wintjiya Napaltjarri are still alive and practicing.

Their subject matter ranges from remote celestial bodies and indigenous flora to venerable crafts traditions and ceremonies. Steeped in ancient cultural practices, the works are specific to each artist. Yet they also speak to universal contemporary themes, with every mark invoking natural and cosmological cycles that bring perspective to the human condition.

The exhibition is drawn from the Miami-based Dennis and Debra Scholl collection, considered the most important private holding of Aboriginal Australian contemporary art in America. Reflecting on his initial interest in the work, Dennis observed, "I was struck by the relationships of the artists to their ancestral land, each other, and to their communities." He later added, "Having found these artists so personally compelling, I wanted to help bring their work to audiences across North America."

The show runs August 20 through December 30, with a public reception on Wednesday, September 7. The evening will commence with a talk by Dennis Scholl and exhibition curator Henry Skerritt from 6:30 to 7:30 in the Woldenberg Art Center's Freeman Auditorium. The reception will immediately follow.

A major catalogue accompanies the exhibition and features essays by leading experts in the field, including renowned Aboriginal curators Hetti Perkins, Tina Baum, and Cara Pinchbeck, as well as anthropologists Howard Morphy and John Carty.

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EXHIBITION EVENTS

All events will take place in the Woldenberg Art Center and, unless otherwise noted, are free and open to the public.

SEPTEMBER 7 Exhibition reception

5:30 pm – VIP/members reception; email museum@tulane.edu to join, renew, or inquire into membership

6:30 pm – Talk by Dennis Scholl, collector, and Henry Skerritt, exhibition curator

7:30-9 pm – Public reception

SEPTEMBER 28 Scholarly talk, 6-8 pm

With Dr. Michael Cunningham, Tulane Professor, Department of Psychology, "Tulane's Aboriginal Australia Community Development Program"

EXHIBITION FILM SERIES

Films will be shown from 7:30-9:30 pm in the Woldenberg Art Center's Freeman Auditorium. Screenings are free and open to the public.

OCTOBER 4 "Ten Canoes" – Period drama filmed in indigenous Australian language with English subtitles; 100 Best Films of World Cinema

OCTOBER 18 "Rabbit Proof Fence" – True story of three aboriginal girls' 1,500 mile journey home following the fence bisecting the Australian continent

NOVEMBER 16 Two short documentaries on exhibition artists Nyapanyapa Yunupingu and Angelina Pwerle

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Marking the Infinite originated at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, Nevada and was organized by William Fox, Director, Center for Art and Environment, and Henry Skerritt, Curator, Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia. The exhibition is drawn from the collection of Debra and Dennis Scholl and at Newcomb Art Museum was coordinated by Anna Mecugni, curator and Monica Ramirez-Montagut, director.

ABOUT THE NEWCOMB ART MUSEUM

The Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane University builds on the Newcomb College legacy of education, social enterprise, and artistic experience. Presenting inspiring exhibitions and programs that engage communities both on and off campus, the Museum fosters the creative exchange of ideas and cross-disciplinary collaborations around innovative art and design. The Museum preserves and advances scholarship on the Newcomb and Tulane art collections. Free and open to public, the museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 to 5; Saturday and Sunday 11 to 4; and by appointment.