

Artist Activities

With Nongirrŋa Marawili



Bäru is an illustration and screen print by Nongirrŋa Marawili. In it, we see the children of the Bäru from the Gumatj and Madarrpa clans and their märi bringing them fish.

Nongirrŋa Marawili (Madarrpa, Yithuwa) is one of many children of the famed leader and Madarrpa warrior Mundukuḷ and Buḷunguwuy. She was born on the beach at Darrpirra in 1938, north of Djarrakpi on the ocean side and grew up in a family of over fifty people.

Bäru (crocodile)
märi (grandmothers)
Mundukuḷ (lightning snake)
Djarrakpi (Cape Shield)
ḷarrakitj (hollow memorial pole)
guya (fish)
miyapunu (turtles)
mäna (sharks)



Nongirrŋa is a highly respected senior in her community and a prolific artist. Her art practice includes bark paintings, ḷarrakitj, carvings, and prints on paper. To create her bark paintings, Nongirrŋa uses pigments from her Country as well as toner from used print toner cartridges, which appear in her paintings in shades from soft pinks to deep reds.

**Arnhem Land,
Northern
Territory**



Nongirrŋa's family were wakir' – camping/ moving around. They went to Yilpara. They went to Djarrakpi. But their special place was Guwanarripa (Woodah Island). In a fleet of canoes, they travelled all the way to Anindilyakwa (Groote Eylandt) and back and forth from the mainland. They lived in this rich place surrounded by coral reefs.

When Nongirrŋa's family wanted to catch the wind, they would break off the branch of a tree and use that as the sail. Mums, babies, dogs and kids paddled in canoes by their husbands, brothers and fathers through tropical waters full of huge reptiles, mammals, guya, miyapunu and māna.

If you were a sea creature, would you be a smooth Stripey Snapper? Is there someone in your family who's a strong crocodile type? Or maybe you know an otherworldly octopus with long silver tendrils?

Bottle Barramundi



Use upcycled bottles and found objects to create a family of fish!

We're starting with Baliny (pronounced Balin) a barramundi which is a Yirritja being who moves from fresh to salt waters and changes from male to female. It is a friend of the crocodile and follows them around.

Materials you will need:

- Soft plastic bottle
- Marker
- Tape
- Collage materials
- Scissors

Step 1 – Take your plastic bottle and use scissors to remove the bottom.

Step 2 – On the cut end, use your marker to draw a pattern and create a mouth. You could use a zig zag pattern to create teeth. Cut with scissors.

Step 3 – Using the off-cut or found objects from your home, create unique features like a tail or fins and use tape to to keep in place.

Step 4 – You're ready to decorate your fish with collage materials!

