

## ***Kintyre* painting at the ‘Tracks We Share’ exhibition.**

**Media Release: 10 March 2022**

As part of the ‘Tracks We Share’ exhibition at Art Gallery of WA, Martu artists are showcasing a brand new large scale collaborative artwork- the *Kintyre* painting, an artwork representing an important story and a long journey.

Under the tutelage and direction from their elders, young artists laid the groundwork for the painting, with elders adding layers of details and knowledge to these foundations. Created by 23 artists over 18 months, the resulting artwork brings together stories of *Jukurpa* (Dreaming), pre-colonial Martu life, personal histories, and contemporary mining interference with the important site of Kintyre, located within the heart of Martu Country- *Karlamilyi* national park.

Martu have a history of painting about land to address issues facing *Martu ngurra* (country). The process of painting together (as *marlpa*<sup>1</sup>) and in collaboration, is an important community practice, bringing together different families, and stories and young and old, to work through the issues of the times.

Through their art centre, Martumili Artists, Martu have created many collaborative pieces, some of which are now part of permanent collections at national institutions such as *Ngayarta Kujarra* at the National Gallery, and *Canning Stock Route* at the National Museum of Australia.

Martu artists and their knowledge of the land was reflected in *Kalyu*, one of the first paintings to address Martu concerns about the proposed Kintyre uranium mine through artistic expression.

*Kalyu* contains many secrets about how land and water interact beneath the surface, confirming the significance of water and to focus attention to the primary concerns about the proposed uranium mine.

*Kalyu* was purchased by the Museum of Contemporary Art in December 2014 – the nine artists have approved production of 200 high quality prints as a fundraiser for their continuing campaign to stop the uranium mine.

*Kintyre* continues to tell the story of opposition to mining but looks beyond the proposed mine and into returning all of that country, both Karlamilyi National Park and the Kintyre lease, back into the hands of all Martu.

Martu are very proud to have their story of ngurra told and exhibited at Art Gallery of Western Australia.

The exhibition runs from 11 March to 28 August 2022.

Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation (WDLAC), on behalf of all Martu, affirms that the people never agreed to the taking away of their country – not in 1977 and not in 1994. Martu ngurra always was Martu land, and always will be.

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<sup>1</sup> Martu word for companionship or company

**Quotes attributable to WDLAC Chairperson, Melvin Farmer:**

This painting came from the people coming together for that ngurra, painting the national park and showing how priceless the Jukurrpa<sup>2</sup> and land at that place is for our people.

It's been a long time waiting to get this land back, Karlamilyi. It's taken a generation and we still haven't got it yet. We're grateful we signed a Statement of Intent with Minister Dawson last year.

**Quotes attributable to spokesperson for the artists, Curtis Taylor:**

Karlamilyi is at the heart of our determination. We are determined for the park be included into our title.

**Artwork credit:**

Kintyre, 2021, acrylic on linen, 500 x 300 cm. By Ngamaru Bidu, Marilyn Bullen, Derrick Butt, Jenny Butt, Mayika Chapman, Robina Clause, Kumpaya Girgirba, Kiarah Jadai, Shirley Jadai, Yvonne Mandijalu, Judith Anya Samson, Curtis Taylor, Desmond Taylor, Ignatius Taylor, Muuki Taylor, Ngalangka Nola Taylor, Nikeal Taylor, Wokka Taylor (dec.), Christine Thomas, Maisie Ward, Corban Clause Williams, Tamisha Williams. Artists represented by Martumili Artists.

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**About Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation (WDLAC)**

The Martu people are the owners and custodians of their lands in the western desert region of Western Australia. Martu ngurra includes the exclusive possession native title lands recognised in 2002 and 2013, as well as Karlamilyi National Park, a total of more than 152,000 square kilometres of traditional country

Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation (Jamukurnu Yapalikurnu) - WDLAC - is the Prescribed Body Corporate (PBC) that holds and manages native title for the Martu common law holders of the Martu native title determinations. WDLAC works to advance the cultural, social and economic strengths of Martu people, now and for the future.

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<sup>2</sup> 'Jukurrpa' means spiritual/cultural law.