



SALON
artProjects

Dhambit Wanambi
4 -13 AUG





Dhambit Wanambi

Milŋ'milŋdhun - Shimmer Dhambit Wanambi

Presented By Salon Art Projects
in association with Buku-Larrnggay Mulka and Tactile Arts

Showing 4-13 August 2022
Opening 5 August, 3pm

CURATED BY SALON ART PROJECTS

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TACTILE ARTS

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Wathaltja (Dhambit) Wanambi -

I first met Wathaltja when she was young child, nearly 50 years ago. She comes from a family of renowned artists of the Marrakulu clan of the Dhuwa moiety, and developed her skills as an apprentice to her older sisters Boliny and Ralwurrandji. I recently talked to her about her own work. She told me that she began to paint in her own right after her sisters passed away, having been given permission to paint her *miny'tji* (clan designs) by her brother Yalanba, also an artist. Her body of work is a deep reflection on the *gapu* (waters) named Gudultja offshore from Gurka'wuy on Trial Bay. Gudultja is also found in other Marrakulu places – off Bayapula on Caledon Bay and Manbalala on Myaoola Bay. While her paintings are comprised of elements of her clan *miny'tji*, she stresses that the form they take comes from her own mind as she adapts the *miny'tji* to the surface she is painting on: 'These paintings come from my mind. I thought after my sisters died I would find another way of showing the *gapu*'.

In her fashioning of the Marrakulu *miny'tji* for Gudultja the dots represent the bubbles in the water and the lines are the cross currents and the changing direction of the flows. Wathaltja tells me that the shape of the lines reflects the shapes of the water as it moves around and between the rocks at Gurka'wuy and Bayapula. And as she talks she moves her hands up and down, reflecting the shapes of the waves and the movement of the currents as the seasons change and the tides flow: 'I want people to see the pattern of the water as you are looking at the sea'. Where there are

circles in the paintings they show the rocks and islets off shore, the rock called Bamuruṇu, also called

Bulunmirri, many names. There are many more names for rocks in the Gudultja waters: Bulunmirri, Nyulanyula and Dharrṇinydja, Balumba, Dundiwuy, Banduray, Mandikayitjpi, Walarrwalarr. Some of these are also names of people – Marrakulu people and their *gurrutu* (family members) from other Dhuwa moiety clans – passed down through the generations, connecting people to place.

Wathaltja says: 'When people look at my paintings I want them to see the water moving around. That *gapu* sometimes it goes up and down; when the wind comes the surface is rough, and when it is calm the surface is smooth. Sometimes where the fresh water from the land mixes with the salt water the colours mix, black and white together.' In addition to ochres she uses the black sand called Raṇimurra, Ganditji and Walanba which is found on the beaches in Marrakulu country at Gurka'wuy and at Bayapula: 'When you move your foot through the sand and lift it up, the sand sparkles and shines back at you. The shining is *milṇ'milṇdhun*, you can see the light shining into your eye.'

Through these paintings Wathaltja is expressing deep emotions that connect her to her brothers and sisters, and to places in her sea country.



Gudultja
2019
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
150 x 59 cm
2188-19

\$4,500



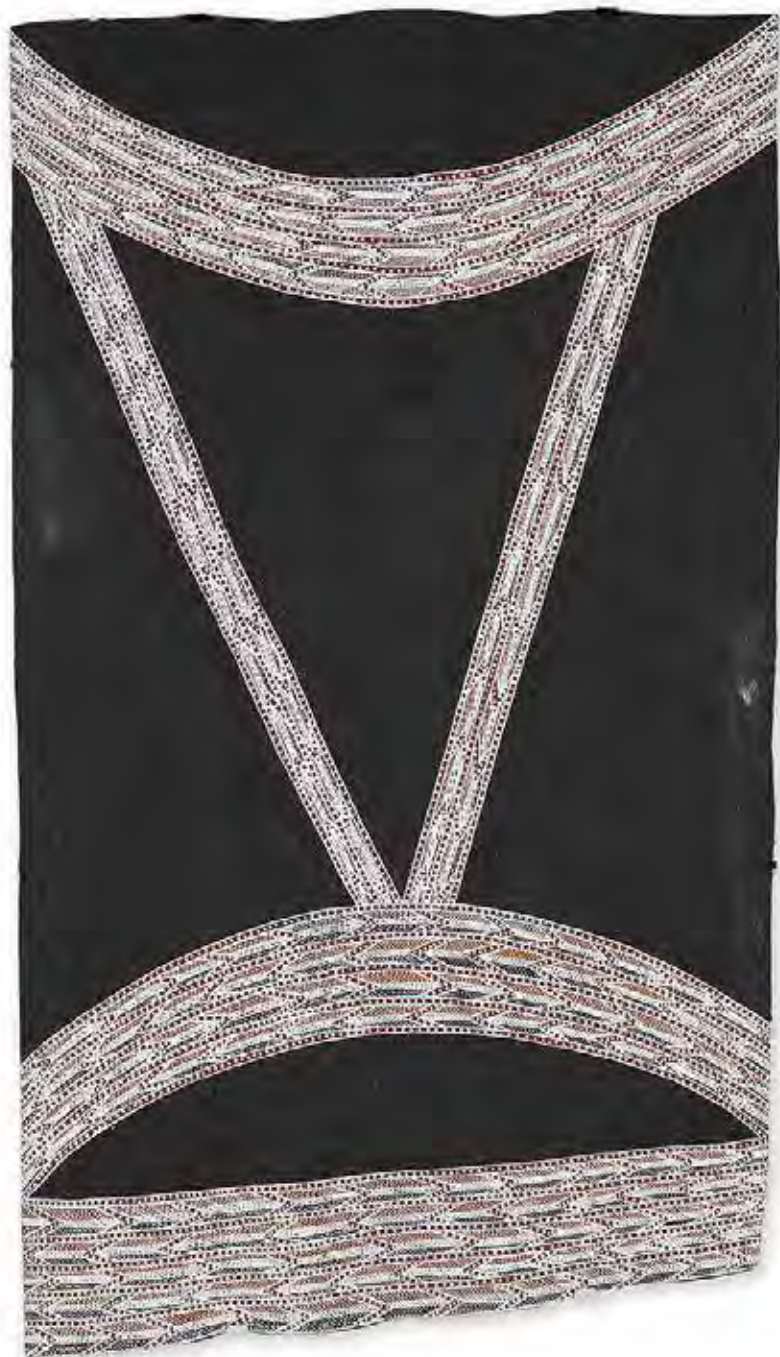
Gugultja
2019
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
151 x 58 cm
2239-19

\$4,500



Gudultja
2020
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
152 x 65 cm
2212-20

\$4,500



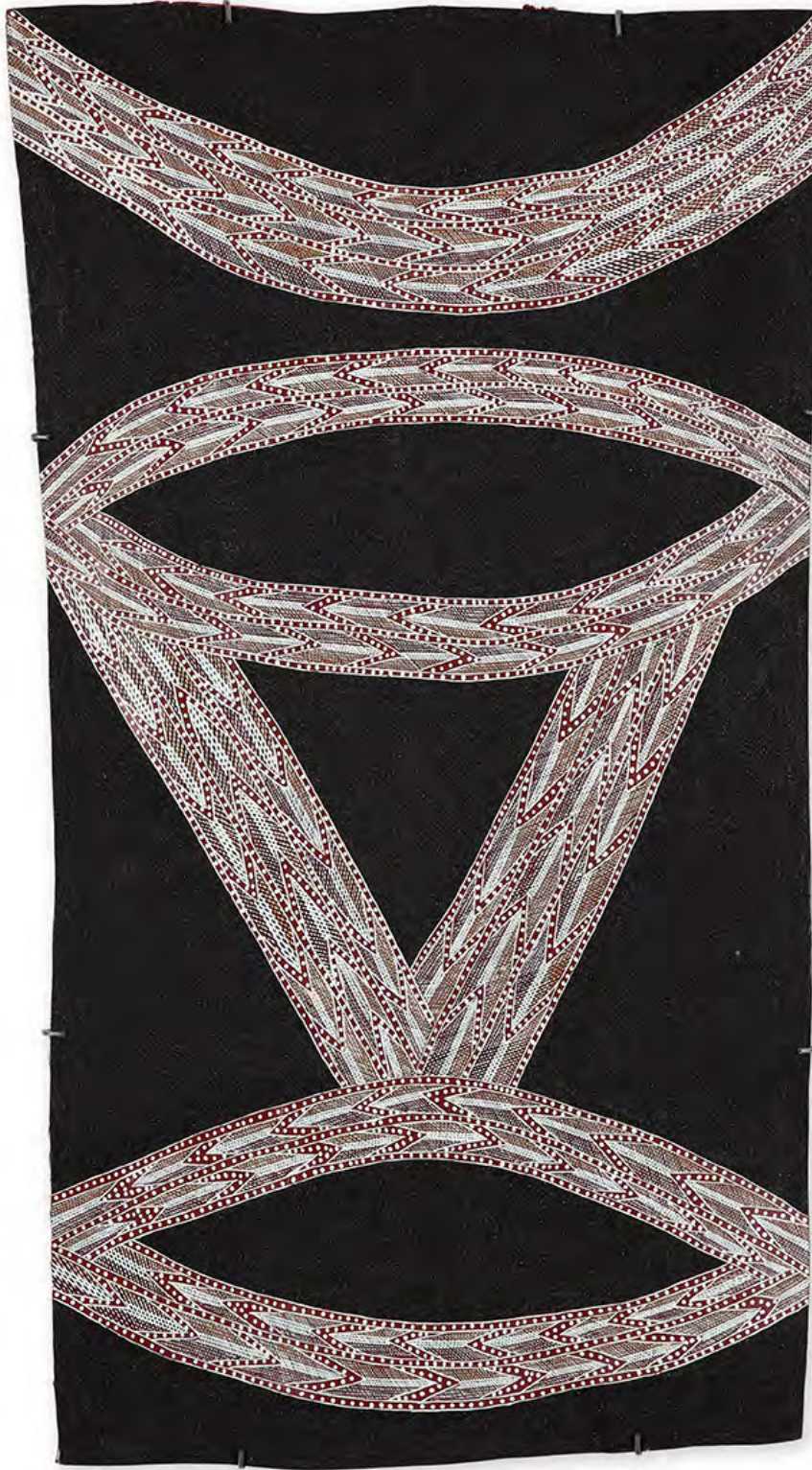
Gugultja
2020
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
124 x 73 cm
2294-20

\$4,200



Gugultja
2020
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
110 x 56 cm
2313-20

\$3,800



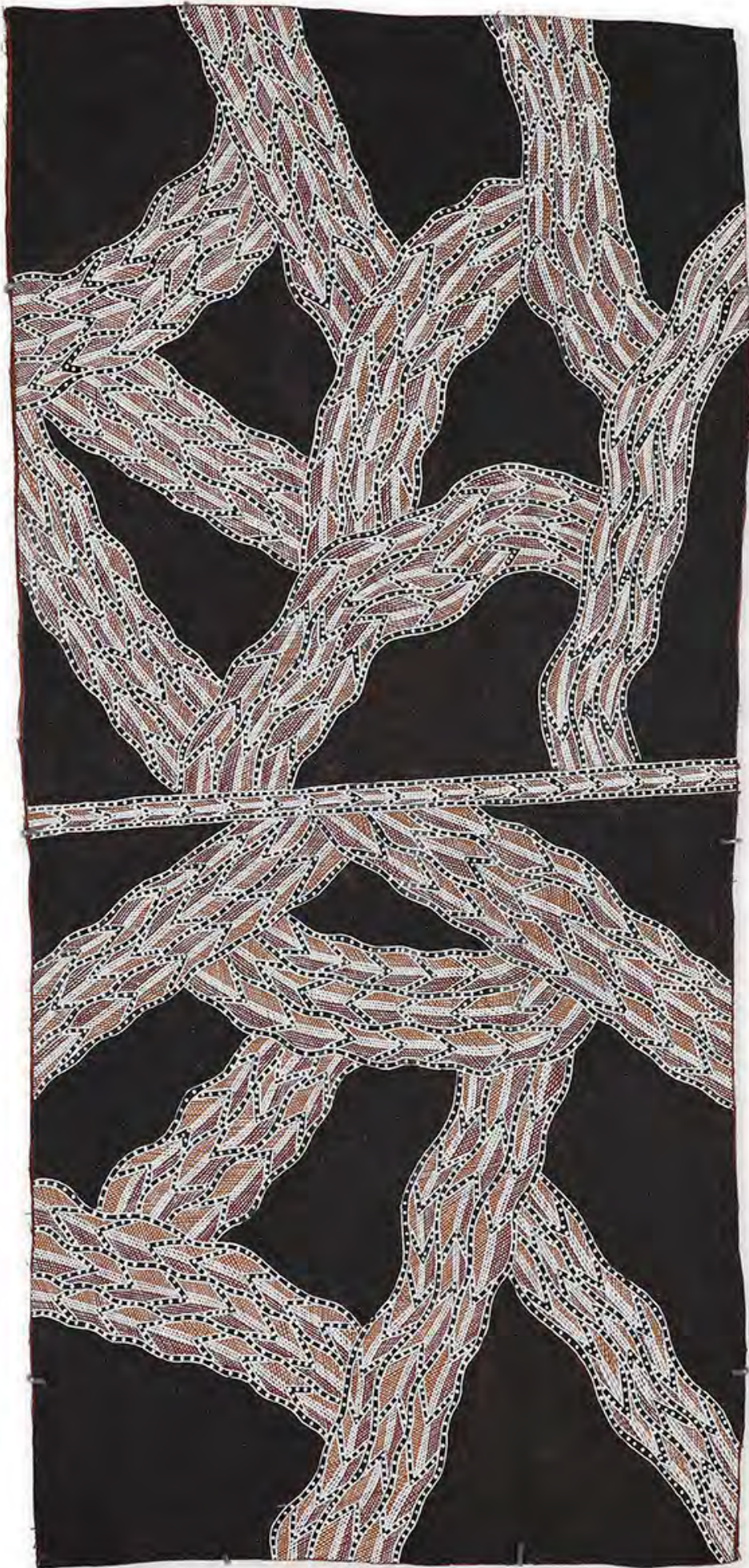
Gugultja
2020
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
136 x 73cm
1726-20

\$4,500



Gugultja
2021
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
142 x 58 cm
1133-21

\$4,500 /



Gugultja
2021
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
159 x 76 cm
1056-21

\$5,500



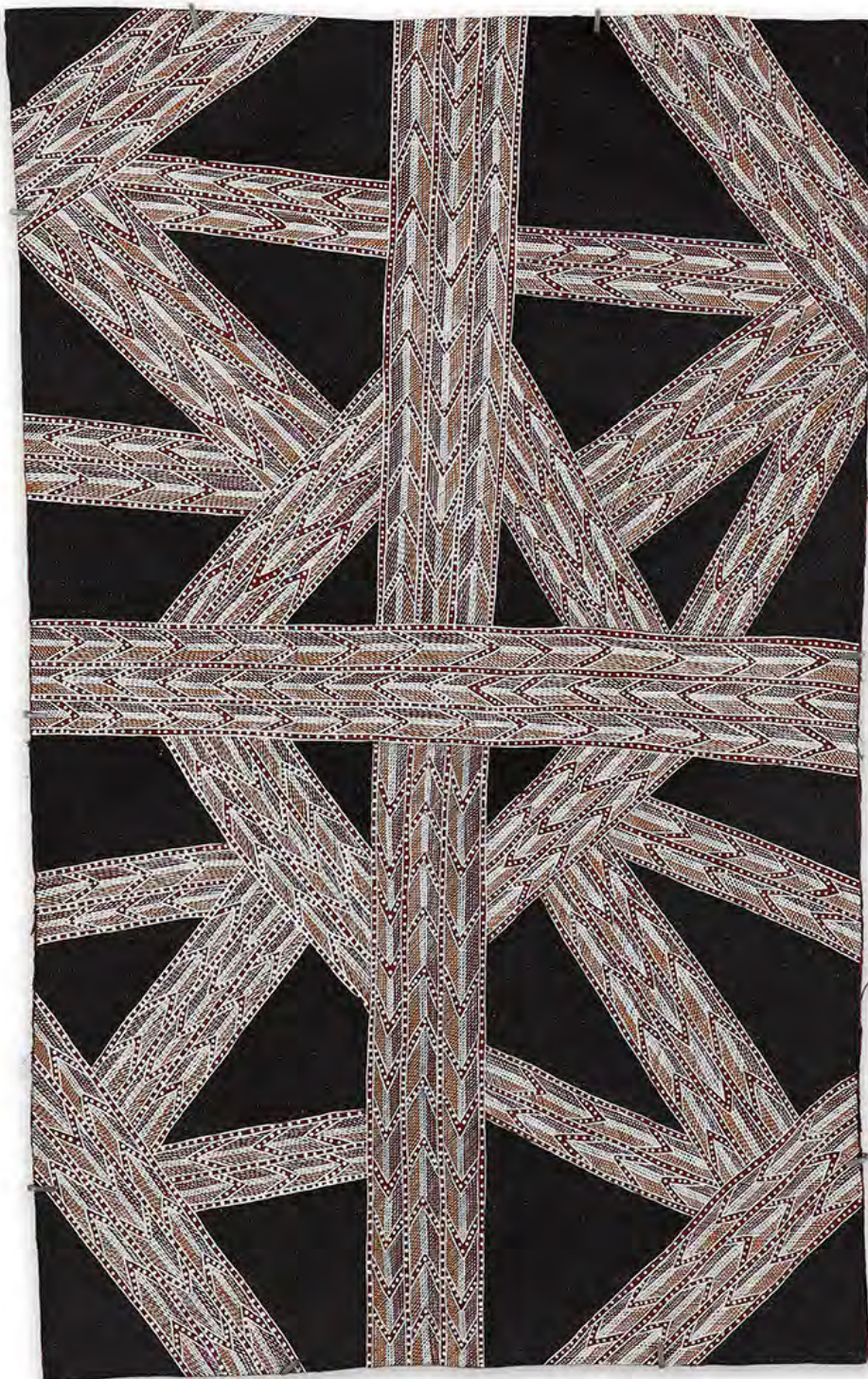
Gugultja
2021
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
71x46 cm
1275-21

\$5,500



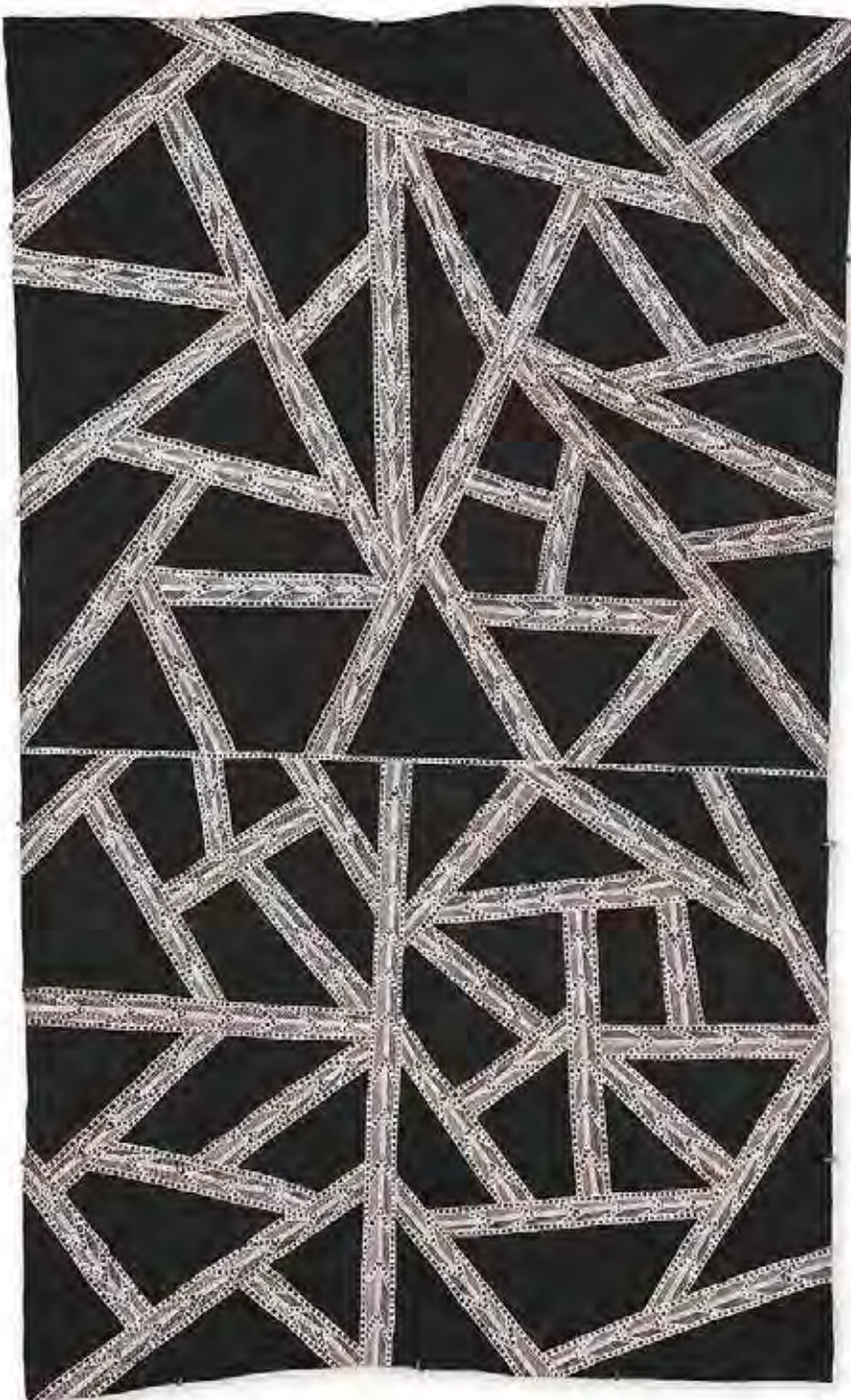
Gudultja
2021
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
146 x 49 cm
1588-21

\$4,500



Gugultja
2021
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
128 x 80cm
1975-21

\$5,500



Gugultja
2021
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
100 x 167 cm
1839-21

\$7,500 /



Gugultja
2021
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
00 x 00 cm
2843-21

\$2,800



Gugultja
2021
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
88 x 55cm
2621-21

\$2,800 /



Gugultja
2021
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
196 x 86cm
2169-21

\$9,000



Gudultja
2021
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
143 x 56cm
2589-21

\$3,500



Gudultja
2022
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
195 x 122cm
2181-22

SOLD



Gugultja
2022
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
98 x 44cm
3040-22

\$2,500



Gugultja
2022
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
120 x 73cm
2598-22

\$3,500



Gugultja
2022
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
187 x 62cm
3515-22

\$7,200



Gugultja
2022
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
139 x 50cm
1948-22

\$3,200 /



Gudultja
2022
earth pigment and sand
on stringybark
137 x 48cm
1325-22

\$3,200



Trial Bay larrakitj
2019
larrakitj
212 x 18cm
1618-19

SOLD



Trial Bay larrakitj
2019
larrakitj
221 x 26cm
7085-19

SOLD



Yalanba larrakitj
2021
larrakitj
277 x 20 x 32cm
3971-21

SOLD

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presenting contemporary
Aboriginal Art with ethics
and integrity

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