

KAYIMWAGAKIMI

KAYE BROWN AND
MICHELLE WOODY MINNAPINNI

MARCH 2023



Outstation
art from art centres





OUTSTATION GALLERY IS PROUD TO PRESENT

KAYIMWAGAKIMI

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
JILAMARA ARTS CENTRE

OPENING SATURDAY 25 MARCH AT 11AM
SHOWING SATURDAY 25 MARCH – SATURDAY 15 APRIL 2023

IMAGES:

COVER: Kaye Brown, *Yirrinkiripwoja* (detail), page 15

PREVIOUS: Michelle Woody Minnapinni, *Ngija Murrakupupuni* (detail), page 22

LEFT: Michelle Woody Tutini (*Pukumani Pole*), 74-2, page 19

8 Parap Place, Parap
Northern Territory 0820
P 08 8981 4822
M 0488 564 952
E info@outstation.com.au
W www.outstation.com.au

Director Matt Ward

Outstation
art from art centres

Kayimwagakimi

Kaye Brown

Michelle Woody Minnapinni

From parlingarri (old days) to ningani (today), Tiwi preparing for the significant Pukumani (mourning) and Kulama (coming of age) ceremonies are painted with jilamara (body paint designs) using a *Kayimwagakimi* (comb).

Kayimwagakimi is a comb carved from ironwood, with a straight row of teeth that when dipped in ochre paint creates finely dotted lines across a surface. The use of this painting comb has been passed down across generations of Tiwi. It is the tool of choice for the important Tiwi culture women Kaye Brown and Michelle Woody Minnapinni.

Both women were taught to use the *Kayimwagakimi* with precision and care by their wulimawi (old people). Michelle remembers 'my ancestors used the comb', while Kaye recalls 'sitting down with old people' to learn. They now carry on this technique with their own strength and style.

In this exhibition *Kayimwagakimi*, Kaye and Michelle are 'sharing ideas, sharing stories together'. Their artworks celebrate the interconnectedness of Murrakupupuni (Country) and the cultural practices they continue.

Kaye shares a suite of barks dedicated to yirrinkiripwoja (body paint design). She paints almost exclusively with the *Kayimwagakimi* (comb) and does so 'to keep it going'.

Her paintings transfer jilamara from the skin of the human body to the skin – or bark – of the local stringybark tree. The bark becomes a carrier of the knowledge, song and yoyi (dance) that accompanies jilamara.

On a black background, Kaye uses a *Kayimwagakimi* to create layers of ochre in shifting shades of red, yellow, and white. In some works, Kaye uses the comb to create plots or bands of colour; other works she applies ochres in countless layers to create a haze of delicate dots. Whether neatly laid out or densely packed, these overlapping dots seemingly shimmer and evoke the energy and movement of ceremonies.

The rhythms of ceremony are also present in Michelle Woody Minnapinni's paintings and tutini or Pukumani poles. Focusing on *Kayimwagakimi* jilamara (comb body design), Michelle has created works that stretch across diptych and triptych arrangements. These multi-panelled works

are large, magnifying *Kayimwagakimi* jilamara beyond its usual scale when painted on the body. Each panel features fluid sections of background colour that flow across the canvases. Using the *Kayimwagakimi*, Michelle adds layers of crosshatched dotted lines to each section choosing to paint these lines in contrasting colours: painting black over and under yellow or pairing red with white. Her use of scale, form and colour expands the jilamara beyond the human body, creating a landscape of energy and motion.

These works are accompanied by Michelle's first showing of tutini or Pukumani poles. This inaugural presentation marks an exciting new chapter in her practice.

The Pukumani (mourning) ceremony is a significant ceremony for all Tiwi and honours the dead through song and yoyi (dance). Pukumani poles created for the ceremony are placed on the graves of the deceased. Following the ceremony, they remain as a marker until they naturally disintegrate from exposure. Tutini created for exhibition are different from those created for ceremonies.

Michelle's tutini are painted with ochre paint she prepares herself. Collecting ochre from Murrakupupuni (Country), Michelle handmakes her palette of red, yellow, white and black. The vivid and bold bands of ochre she paints around the tutini differ from her intricate comb work, showing her versatility as an artist.

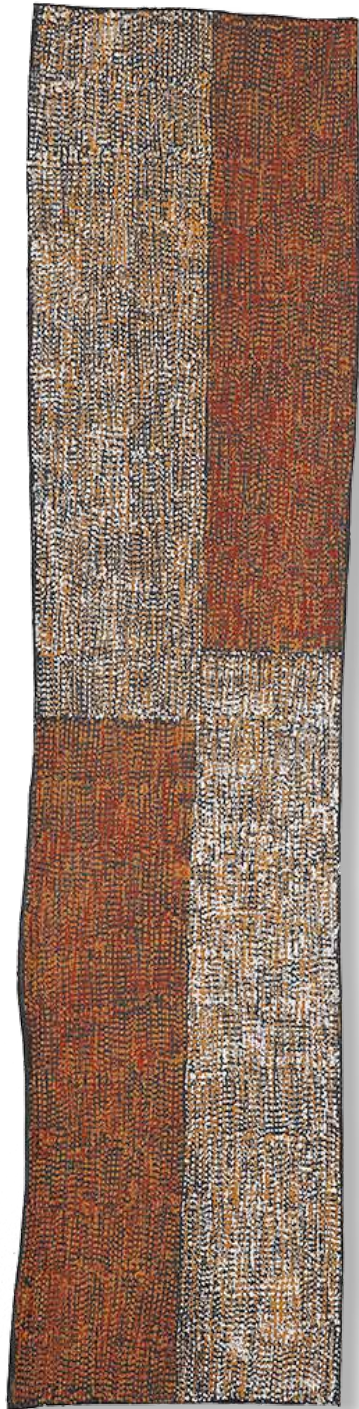
Michelle and Kaye's works throw into focus how Murrakupupuni (Country) is embedded in every part of Tiwi cultural and artistic practices. Their combs, the surfaces they paint, the paint they use, are all provided by their island home. Michelle and Kaye's artworks speak through and with their Murrakupupuni (Country).

Kayimwagakimi showcases the skill, knowledge and individual styles of Kaye Brown and Michelle Woody Minnapinni. Their use of the time-honoured painting comb leads the way for future Tiwi. Kaye and Michelle are both aware of their legacy: 'when we go on, the young ones will be the next generation'.

Rebekah Raymond

KAYE BROWN





KAYE BROWN
Yirrinkiripwoja (body paint design),
2022
locally sourced ochres on stringybark
108 x 25 cm
362-22

\$4,500



KAYE BROWN
Yirrinkiripwoja (body paint design),
2022
locally sourced ochres on stringybark
127 x 20 cm
363-22

\$4,500



KAYE BROWN
Yirinkiripwoja (body paint design),
2022
locally sourced ochres on stringybark
124 x 35 cm
420-22

\$5,000



KAYE BROWN
Yirrinkiripwoja (body paint design),
2022
locally sourced ochres on stringybark
94 x 28 cm
490-22

\$3,500



KAYE BROWN
Yirinkiripwoja (body paint design),
2022
locally sourced ochres on stringybark
127 x 32 cm
552-22

\$4,800



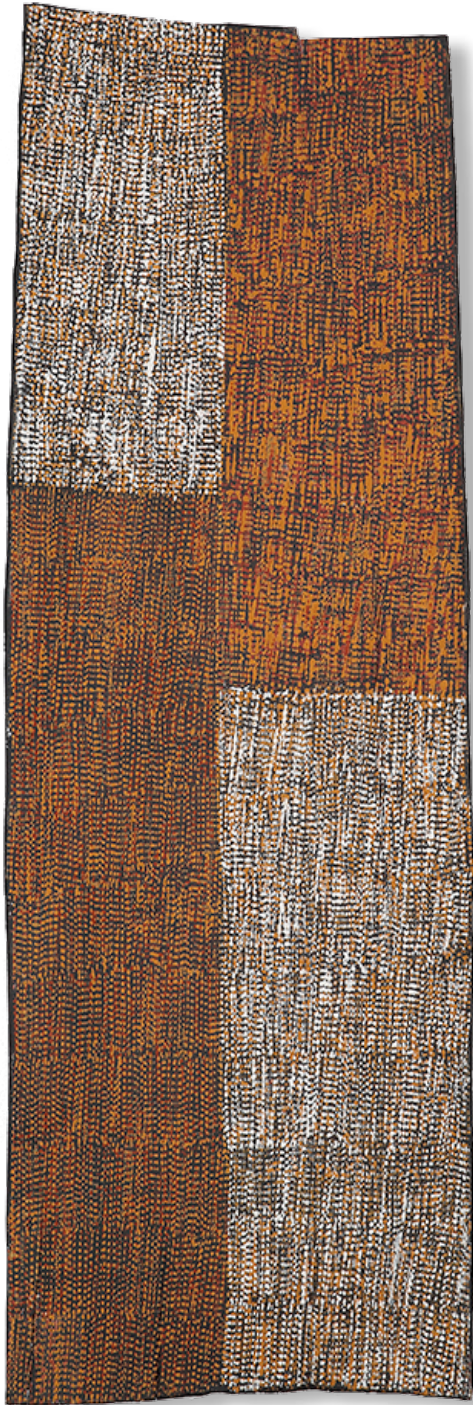
KAYE BROWN
Yirinkiripwoja (body paint design),
2022
locally sourced ochres on stringybark
80 x 58 cm
001-23

SOLD



KAYE BROWN
Yirinkiripwoja (body paint design),
2022
locally sourced ochres on stringybark
127 x 25 cm
48-23

\$3,500



KAYE BROWN
Yirrinkirpwoja (body paint design),
2022
locally sourced ochres on stringybark
100 x 34 cm
51-23

\$4,000



KAYE BROWN
Yirrinkiripwoja (body paint design),
2022
locally sourced ochres on stringybark
95 x 75 cm
53-23

\$8,800

**MICHELLE WOODY
MINNAPINNI**





MICHELLE WOODY MINNAPINNI
Tutini (Pukumani Pole)
2023
locally sourced ochres on ironwood
190 cm
73-23

\$8,800



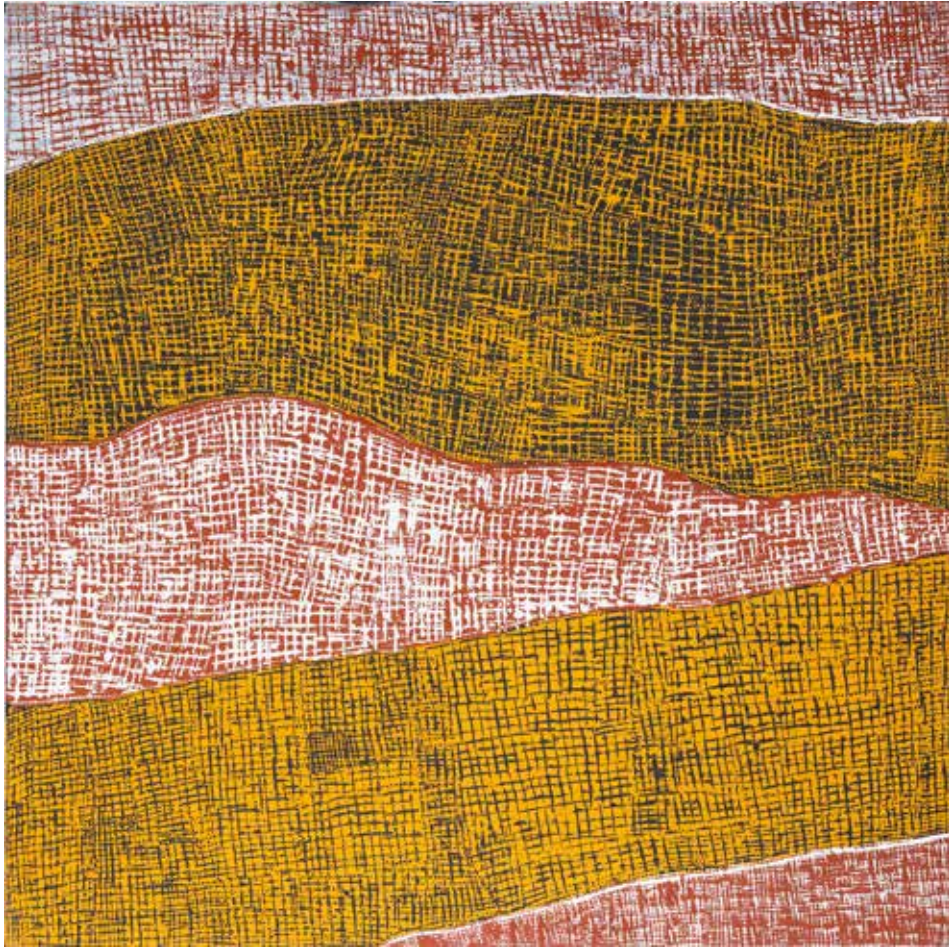
MICHELLE WOODY MINNAPINNI
Tutini (Pukumani Pole)
2023
locally sourced ochres on ironwood
147 cm
74-23

\$6,000



MICHELLE WOODY MINNAPINNI
Tutini (Pukumani Pole)
2023
locally sourced ochres on ironwood
172 cm
75-23

\$6,500



MICHELLE WOODY MINNAPINNI
Ngija Murrakupuni (My Country),
2023
natural ochres on linen
240 x 120 cm
(2 panels each 120 x 120 cm)
97/100-32-2

\$9,600

RESERVED



MICHELLE WOODY MINNAPINNI
Ngija Murrakupupuni (My Country),
2023
natural ochres on linen
360 x 120 cm
(3 panels each 120 x 120 cm)
98-99/101-23-2

\$14,400
RESERVED



For further information or to see high resolution images please contact the gallery.
All rights reserved. Artwork copyright © the photographers and artists.

Images courtesy of the artists'
and Jilamara Arts and Crafts Association
Photography: Michelle Woody's artworks
and photos of the artists - Will Heathcote.
Kaye Brown's artworks - Fiona Morrison.