



**Garma**  
4 - 7 August 2023

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## 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FOR SPECTACULAR GAPAN GALLERY

Friday, 14 July, 2023

The Garma Festival's spectacular open-air art gallery will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the Yothu Yindi Foundation said today.

YYF CEO and Festival Director Denise Bowden said the Gapan Gallery – which uses white clay (gapan) to create a gallery space within a grove of stringybark trees – had been a major drawcard for Garma guests over two decades.

Curated by Buku-Larrnggay, the gallery was first launched in 2003 as a way of sharing the limited edition screenprints, etchings and linos produced by the Yirrkala Print Space each year.

“The Gapan Gallery is so much more than an exhibition of beautiful art – it’s a focal point for the Festival and a place where guests can mingle and meet the artists behind these incredible works,” Mrs Bowden said.

“The transformation from bush setting to art gallery is truly special and something to be admired.

“The gapan is used to paint the trees which make up the walls of the gallery, pristine white sand underfoot acts as the floor, and a canopy of stars above provides the ceiling on this spectacular space.

“The official opening on Friday night is one of the highlights of Garma and should not be missed.”

Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre Co-ordinator Will Stubbs said creating the gallery anew each year was a joy for the centre and the artists involved.

“It’s hard to believe that it is twenty years since we made our first gallery amongst the trees at Garma,” he said.

“So many layers of sand and white clay have been applied to this little grove to create a temporary white cube. But each year we come back and there is no trace left. We are happy to start again because we just love the space that ends up being created.

“Somehow conversations that happen here seem more important!”

In addition to Buku-Larrnggay, regional art centres Anindilyakwa Arts, Bula’Bula Arts, and Gapuwiyak Culture & Arts Aboriginal Corporation will also be at Garma this year, showcasing the incredible diversity and richness of artistic practices across Arnhem Land.

Prolific painter Dhambit Mununggurr will also have a stall in the art space – make sure to say hello to this much-loved and admired local artist.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Garma Festival will take place from Friday 4 – Monday 7 August, 2023.

The theme this year’s event is Djambatj – Yolngu excellence.

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