

Exhibition catalogue

Aboriginal Contemporary and Warmun Arts are delighted to present:

RAMMEY

An exhibition of works on paper by **Rammey Ramsey**

Exhibition Opens 5 September 10am – 4pm

254 Bronte Road, Waverley, NSW



ABORIGINAL CONTEMPORARY

Back in April, I received an unusual message from Warmun Arts in the East Kimberley, an art centre I have worked with for years and had the privilege to visit on many occasions. Dom, the Gallery Coordinator, said a crate had been discovered at the back of the art centre's storeroom that contained more than 20 works on paper by the legendary Rammey Ramsey that had not been seen for ten years. He sent pictures of its contents. Might Aboriginal Contemporary be interested in exhibiting them as a collection? It was one of the fastest decisions I've ever made.

Rammey is a senior Warmun artist whose country, Warlawoon, lies to the west of Bedford Downs. Rammey lived and worked on stations around Warlawoon for most of his life until he moved to Bow River Station, where he still lives under the care of his two daughters, artists Tracey and Kathy Ramsay. Rammey didn't start painting until 2000 and, in the same year, was part of a show titled 'Gaagembi', literally meaning 'Poor Things', which included works expressing sorrow for loss of Country and the traditional way of life. Through Jirrawun Arts, Rammey was exposed to artists such as Warhol, Miro and Skully, and the influence of post-modernism on timeless depictions of Country are the signature of much of his finest work.



Rammey Ramsay, Warmun Art Centre
2019 photo by Dominic Kavanagh

The rare collection Warmun Arts and Aboriginal Contemporary bring to you in 'Rammey' were painted between 2008 and 2010 and show an artist deeply connected to Country producing an expressive, experimental body of work; someone at the height of his powers – gestural and gaudy.

Rammey is the last living elder from Warlawoon and these works are powerful depictions of his Country, the hills, gorges, waterholes boabs and station life. Beyond his cultural role as a painter, Rammey has also been an instrumental knowledge holder for song, dance and ceremony. It is a great privilege for our gallery to be able to bring you these extraordinary rare and important works.

Rammey Ramsey



Cat No: WACJAWOP10/09

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

SOLD

Rammey Ramsey



Cat No: WACJAWOP6/09

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$2,200

Rammey Ramsey



Cat No: WACJAWOP7/09

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$2,200

Rammey Ramsey



Cat No: WACJAWOP6/10

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$2,200

Rammey Ramsey



Cat No: WACJAWOP8/09

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$2,200

Rammey Ramsey



Cat No: WACJAWOP6/08

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$2,200

Rammey Ramsey



Cat No: WACJAWOP9/09

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

SOLD

Rammey Ramsey



Cat No: WACJAWOP5/08

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

SOLD

Rammey Ramsey



Cat No: WACJAWOP3/08

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$2,200

Rammey Ramsey



Cat No: WACJAWOP4/09

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$2,200

Rammey Ramsey



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Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$2,200

Rammey Ramsey



Cat No: WACJAWOP2/08

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$2,200

Rammey Ramsey



Cat No: WACJAWOP2/09

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

SOLD

Rammey Ramsey



Cat No: WACJAWOP1/08

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$2,200

Rammey Ramsey



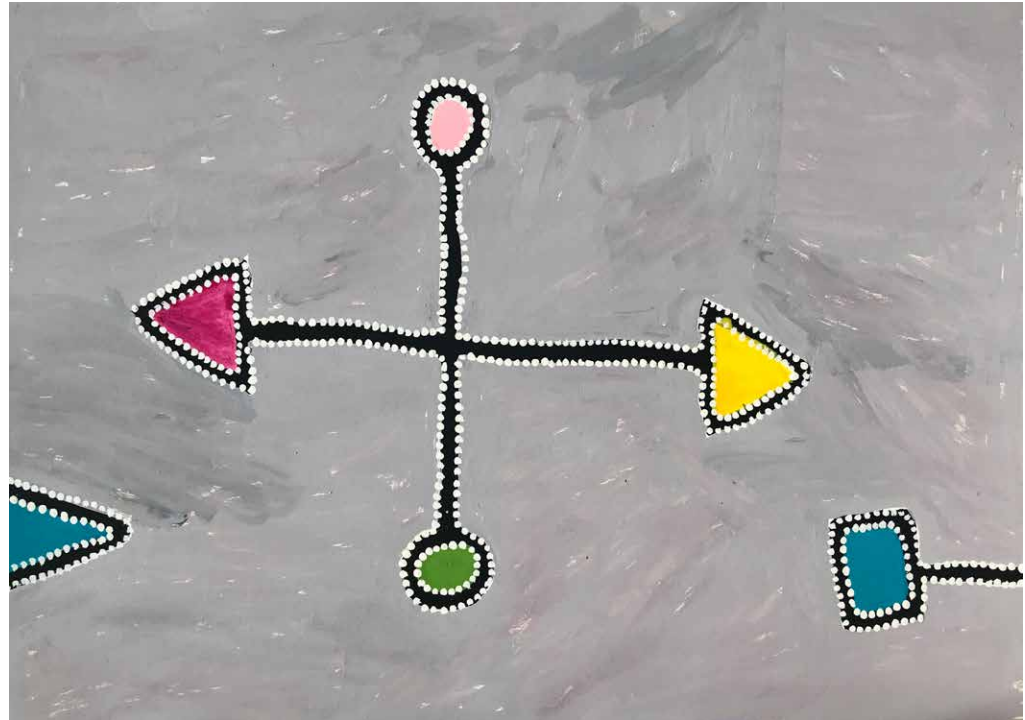
Cat No: WACJAWOP1/09

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$2,200

Rammey Ramsey



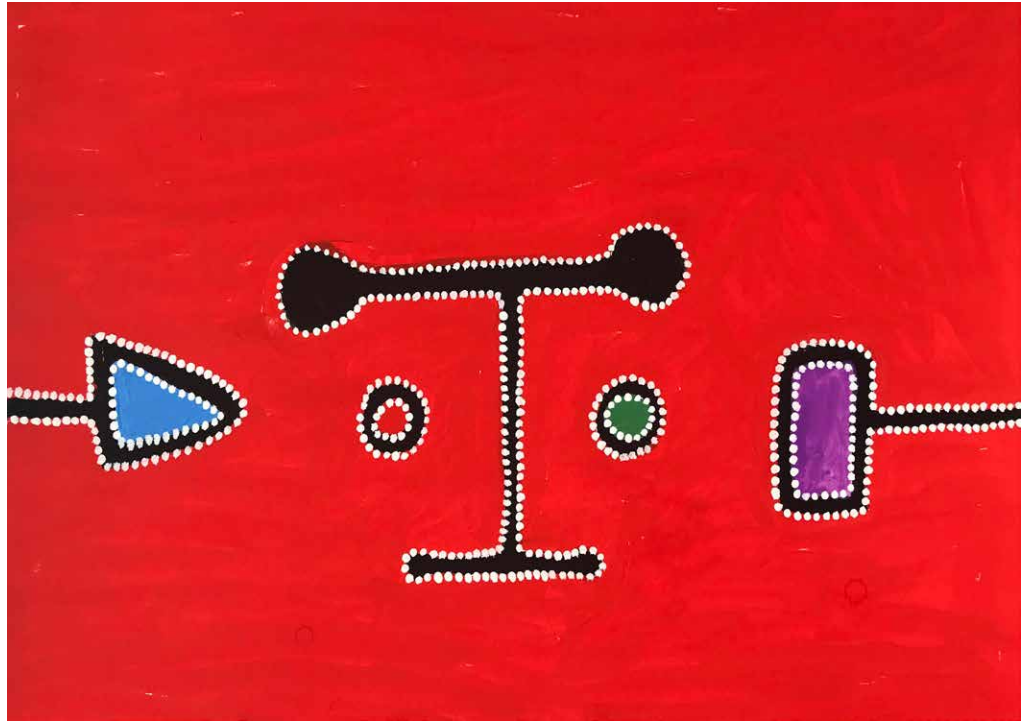
Cat No: WACJAWOP11/09

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$2,200

Rammey Ramsey



Cat No: WACJAWOP05/10

Framed: 94cm x 67cm

Pigment on Paper Board

SOLD

Rammey Ramsey

Cat No: WACJAWOP4/10

Framed: 53cm x 40cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$960



Rammey Ramsey

Cat No: WACJAWOP2/10

Framed: 53cm x 40cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$960



Rammey Ramsey

Cat No: WACJAWOP3/10

Framed: 53cm x 40cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$960



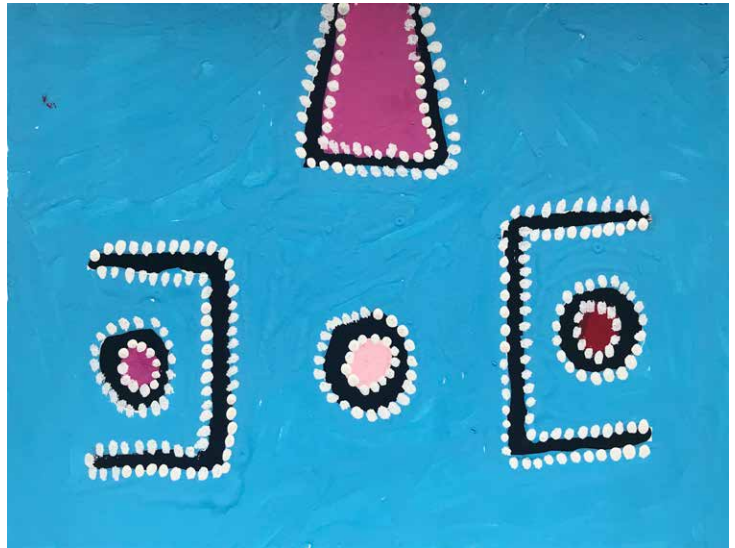
Rammey Ramsey

Cat No: WACJAWOP1/10

Framed: 53cm x 40cm

Pigment on Paper Board

Price: \$960



Ramme~~y~~ Ramsey

Born: **01/07/1935**

Skin Name: **Jungurra**

Languages: **Gija, English, Kriol**

Ramme~~y~~ Ramsey paints his ancestral country of Warlawoon located to the west of Bedford Downs near Elgee Cliffs in the remote East Kimberley region of Western Australia. Warlawoon is the country of Ramsey's mother and father, and his Gija name. Although he has not been there for many years, Warlawoon is the main subject of Ramsey's works, which depict both a personal and collective history, and a memory of place.

A senior Gija man, Ramsey lived at Warlawoon as a young boy and then worked for much of his life as a stockman on various Kimberley cattle stations, including Bedford Downs, Lansdowne Station and Bow River Station. Ramsey combined stock work with his collective knowledge of Gija lore and ceremony. He came to painting in his later years, but art was always an essential part of his life through ceremony.

There is a complex relationship between form and content in Ramsey's paintings, with country as the framework. Straddling abstraction and embedded figuration, these representations of the artist's treasured country of Warlawoon are intertwined with aspects of Ngarrangkarni (Dreaming) stories. Capturing knowledge of his country and its associated narratives, Ramsey paints only what he has rights to through birth and family, maintaining these representations of significant cultural histories for future generations.

Ramme~~y~~ Ramsey continues to live and paint in the community of Bow River, a 30-minute drive then left-turn at the stripey rock, after leaving the Warmun community heading towards Kununurra.

Solo exhibitions

2020 RAMMEY – Aboriginal Contemporary, Sydney

2011 New Work by Rammey Ramsey – Seva Frangos Gallery

2004 Rammey Ramsey – Deeper than paint on canvas – William Mora Galleries, Melbourne

2003 Rammey Ramsey – RAFT Artspace Darwin 2001 Rammey Ramsey – RAFT Artspace Darwin

Group exhibitions

2019 Desert River Sea, AGWA, Perth WA

2019 Beyond the surface of the Dreaming – Warmun & Jirrawun , Estrangin Gallery, Brussels

2018 Jooroob 'Coming Together' Exhibition – Aboriginal Contemporary

2018 GIJA Exhibition , Woolloongabba Art Gallery, QLD – An exhibition honouring the Warmun artists, and 20 years of the Gija art movement

2018 Warmun at Twenty Exhibition, Nancy Sever Gallery, Canberra

2017 Jirrawun Collection- TARNANTHI Festival, Art Gallery of SA, Adelaide

2017 When the Sky Fell- Legacies of the 1967 Referendum. PICA, Perth WA

2017 Spiritual essence of the earth with Warmun Artists- Estrangin Gallery, Brussels

2016 Middle Distance, Hanging Valley

2015 LIVELY: New Prints from Warmun Arts – Nomad Arts, Darwin NT 2015 32nd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, MAGNT

2014 Warmun: Gija Contemporary Art of Western Australia – Harvey Art Projects, USA

2013 Gija Manambarram Jimerawoon (Gija Senior Law People Forever) – Australian Embassy Paris, France

2010 Gaagembi – Poor Things – William Mora Galleries, Melbourne

2010 Four Men, Four Paintings – RAFT Artspace Darwin

2006 Jirrawun Artists – Melbourne Art Fair – William Mora Galleries with Jirrawun Arts

2005 Jirrawun in the House A Contemporary Experience from the East Kimberley – Parliament House, Canberra

2005 Beyond the Frontier – Sherman Galleries, Sydney

2003 Jirrawun Jazz – RAFT Artspace Darwin

Awards

2014 Alice Prize Finalist

2015 32nd Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award

RAMMEY

Please join us for the opening:

Saturday 5 September 10am – 4pm
254 Bronte Road, Waverley 2024



ABORIGINAL CONTEMPORARY

Please note all artworks are sold framed.

For any enquiries please contact Nichola on [0450 929 183](tel:0450929183) or nichola@aboriginalcontemporary.com.au