



Artback NT

2017-2019

A sneak peek
behind the
curtain...



Australian Government
Department of Communications and the Arts



Australia
Council
for the Arts



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the Traditional Owners of
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Whether you're a friend, artist, supporter, partner, funder or
arts lover – welcome!

We're really excited to present
a sample from our 2017 – 2019
program – think of this as a sneak
peek behind the curtain, as the full
production is yet to come!

After a couple of years of funding
uncertainty, we have secured a
multi-year grant from Arts NT, four
year funding from the Australia
Council for the Arts, two significant
Catalyst grants, and assistance from
Visions of Australia. This has now
enabled us to develop and program
NT-based visual and performing
artists, supporting them to develop
their work for tour, beyond initial
ideas and productions, to reach
diverse audiences locally, regionally,
nationally and internationally.

From touring artists from the Tiwi
Islands in the north, to Maruku
artists in the central desert; from
traditional dancers in the Gulf of
Carpentaria to presenting workshops
in the remote corners of the Territory,
we are the conduit for audiences
who are seeking work that ventures
far beyond the highway.

To celebrate our 21 years, we have
rebranded with a new logo and
collateral and delivered a new
website, ensuring we move
forward with a connected and
contemporary look and feel.

So wherever you are – Numbulwar
or Caboolture, Geraldton or
Canberra, Cairns or Alice Springs –
come visit us!

Thank you to our amazing staff and
dedicated Board who ensure the
success and sustainability of our
organisation. We would also like to
acknowledge the wonderful artists we
work with and all the communities
and individuals, local, regional,
national and international, who have
invited us into their neighbourhoods.

We look forward to delivering
NT-flavoured arts and cultural
activities and events to you all!

Denise Salvestro
Chair, Artback NT

Louise Partos
Executive Officer, Artback NT

BALNH DHURR

A LASTING IMPRESSION

An Artback NT Touring Exhibition 2017-2019

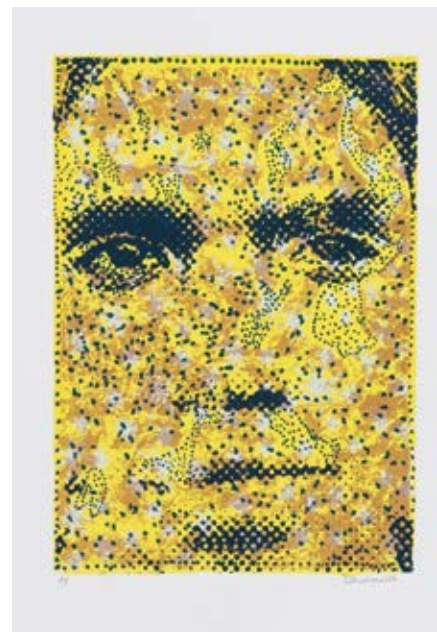
touring nationally,
2017 – 2019

In a remote corner of Arnhem Land sits Yirrkala Print Space, where, for over twenty years, the craft of printmaking has flourished. *Balnhdhurr – A Lasting Impression* celebrates this creative energy with works from 50 artists, providing a privileged insight into the nuances and stories of the art of the Yolngu of Northeast Arnhem Land. *Balnhdhurr – A Lasting Impression* translates to mean a mark made as a sign for people to follow and includes prints inspired by significant cultural and historical stories, fruitful cross-cultural collaborations and focused youth programs.

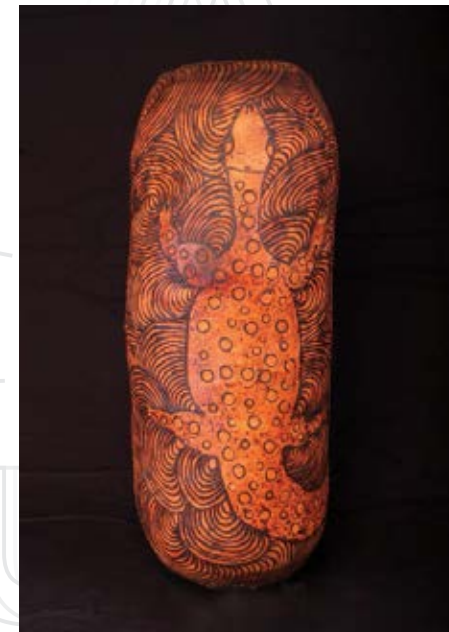
PUNUKU TJUKURPA

touring nationally,
2017 – 2019

Punuku Tjukurpa celebrates the stories and Law of Anangu culture told through intricate carvings and artefacts. The first touring exhibition of artworks from the Maruku Arts archive based at Mutitjulu near Uluru in the Northern Territory, *Punuku Tjukurpa* showcases a rich, sacred history and includes 88 punu objects, alongside sculptural works, 2D pieces and specially produced audio and video footage.



Dhalmula Burarrwanga, *Milkarri (tear)*.
Photographic screenprint, 30 x 21cm. 2012



Ivy Inkatji, *Piti, Itara – River Red Gum*,
710 x 195 x 290mm, c. 1995



Brenda L. Croft, *Self-portrait on country*
(Wave Hill), 24 June 2014. Inkjet print on
archival paper. 42 x 59.5cm

STILL IN MY MIND

Gurindji location, experience and visibility

touring nationally,
2017 – 2019

Inspired by the words of revered Gurindji/Malngin leader **Vincent Lingiari**, 'that land...I still got it in my mind', this exhibition considers the ongoing impact of the Gurindji Walk-Off, a seminal event in Australian history that continues to resonate powerfully today. Curated by renowned Indigenous artist, curator and researcher **Brenda L Croft**, in collaboration with the Kalkaringi and Daguragu communities, *Still in My Mind: Gurindji location, experience and visibility* includes material drawn from a number of public and private archives as well as new and experimental work across a range of media to explore notions of home, community and country.

Shirtfronting the Territory – touring the NT, 2018

1 July 2018 will see the 40th anniversary of self-government in the Northern Territory. To celebrate **Chips Mackinolty**, **Therese Ritchie** and **Todd Williams** are marking the date with an exhibition entitled *Shirtfronting the Territory—40 years of political and cultural history through T-shirts*. The exhibition will travel throughout the Territory in 2018 with national venues to be confirmed.



touring the NT

SPARK is a new initiative from Artback NT that supports an independent or emerging curator resident in the Northern Territory to develop an exhibition project for tour. The program is designed to foster critical and curatorial practice within the NT, and provide NT artists with opportunities to showcase their work within curated touring exhibitions.

SPARK exhibitions are developed over a maximum of six months in one year, for tour throughout the Northern Territory the following year. This is a three year initiative.

***In Between Two* – touring the NT, September 2017**

Experience the storytelling, music and performance of Joelistics' Joel Ma and Sietta's James Mangohig as they explore the soundtrack of their mixed heritage. Beautifully enhanced by rare home movie footage, family photographs and original live music performance, *In Between Two* navigates the rich territory between two cultures, two generations and two musicians reaching their peak.

Produced by Contemporary Asian Australian Performance, *In Between Two* is a moving insight into living between two worlds.

***B2M and collaborations* – touring nationally and internationally, 2017 – 2018**

B2M (Bathurst to Melville) are a seven-piece RnB Indigenous band hailing from the Northern Territory's Tiwi Islands, 80 kilometres north of Darwin where the Arafura Sea meets the Timor Sea. The band's debut album, *Home*, is unique and infectious, filled with beats, chants and harmonies that showcase their ability to carry a positive image of their people and culture through RnB with a Tiwi twist! Holding role model status in their community and becoming ambassadors in a broader Australian and international landscape, B2M have performed extensively throughout WA and the NT, China, East Timor and most recently, Taiwan!

Stay tuned for future collaborations with Taiwanese artists and 2018 national tour dates.



In Between Two, photo by William Yang



Indigenous R&B group B2M on their tour of Taiwan with students from the School of Indigenous Affairs at the National Dong Hwa University. Photo by James Mangohig



Caiti Baker, photo by Jett Street



Hillbilly Horrors, photo by Kerry Schallmeiner

Caiti Baker – touring the NT, 2017 – 2018

Caiti Baker, a vocalist and front woman raised on the sounds that birthed popular music, is now ready to release her new music onto the masses. Born into a household filled with vinyl, CDs and tapes of blues, soul, gospel, jazz, big band and rock & roll, Caiti's father, a blues musician himself, made sure that she was raised amongst music. Writing songs about what she knows and feels, and singing with her soul, Caiti unashamedly performs the hell out of them.

Hillbilly Horrors – touring the NT, March 2018

Something's rotten in the Cooters' backwoods cabin – and it's not just Granma's guts.

A blood moon's soon to rise, once more activating the Cooter curse, caused by a dire and dreadful secret from the kinfolks dim, dark past.

Performed with no set and minimal props, five actors playing multiple characters and with two live musicians, *Hillbilly Horrors* is a physical, musical, comedy of horrible hilarity and physical skill.

Written and composed by **Gail Evans**; musical arrangement by **Yoris Wilson** and starring **Gail Evans, Nicola Fearn, Tania Lieman, Ciella Williams** and **Yoris Wilson**.

Desert Divas – touring the NT, June 2018

Desert Divas & Sista Sounds form the Territory's premier music development program for female Indigenous musicians, rappers and singer-songwriters. Fostering the considerable and unique artistic talent of Indigenous women, the programs develop and support the work of Indigenous women in music, from the grass roots community programs of **Sista Sounds** through to the **Desert Divas** – a platform for women to showcase their music and talent.

Coal Face – touring the NT, July 2018

On a small patch of land beside a creek in Northern Australia, an Indigenous woman from Sydney works to convince the traditional elder to lease his homeland to the mining company that she's representing.

Coal Face is about cultural tensions on the land; about family and heartache and how to reconcile an identity when you don't understand your own past. Written by **Sarah Hope** in collaboration with Director **Frederick Copperwaite** and Cultural Consultant **Patrick White**, this new Australian work sees its premier in the Northern Territory.



Desert Divas artist Casii Williams performing in the Diva set at 2016 Bush Bands Bash concert. Photo by Amy Hetherington



Coal Face, stock photo



Photo of Lindy Chamberlain by AP via AAP



The Package, photo by Anna Cadden,
design by Katelnd Griffin

***Letters to Lindy* – touring the NT, August 2018**

Filled with humour and heartbreak, this stunning new work by award-winning playwright **Alana Valentine** explores the public's relationship with one of Australia's most iconic figures. A mother accused of murdering her child, her claim – that the baby was taken by a dingo – denied and discredited by zealous police and a flawed legal system. The media circus, the rumours, the nation's prejudices laid bare. The court case captivated a nation.

The National Library in Canberra holds a collection of more than 20,000 letters to **Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton**. From sympathy to abuse, from marriage proposals to death threats and photos of dogs' birthday parties (yes, really!), the correspondence traverses the gamut of human response to Lindy's story. *Letters to Lindy* draws on this extraordinary correspondence and interviews with Lindy herself, to create an enthralling, revealing and long overdue dialogue between Lindy and the nation.

A Merrigong Theatre Company production in association with Canberra Theatre Centre.

***The Package* – touring the NT, June 2019**

The Package is an uplifting, soulful journey of magical realism. It addresses the socially-hidden subjects of old-age and death with beauty, humour and feeling. Combining puppetry, physical theatre, animation and mask, it rides an enchanting original score, delivering a rich, wordless experience. Somewhere between a well-loved picture book and a dream, *The Package* reaches across ages, cultures and language-barriers, straight to the heart. Created and performed by **Katelnd Griffin, Kristy Schubert and Robbie Hoad**.

Artback NT's **Artists on Tour** initiative brings together leading artists from across the Territory to deliver creative workshops in schools and communities around the NT! Supporting the development of emerging and established artists, young people and the community within their regional and remote location, Artists on Tour is an exciting offering and one we're proud to make possible.

If you're from arts and community organisations or a school in the NT, have a look at the workshops and get in touch! There's the option to book one-off or ongoing holiday workshops, and you can pick from a pre-existing workshop or we can tailor one that's specific to your group's skills, age and time frame.

Please note, our **Artists on Tour** initiative is eligible for urban and remote sports vouchers.

For more information go to:
<http://bit.ly/2ouqsFw>



Malandarri Festival, **Borroloola – 16 and 17 June**

Formerly known as DanceSite, **Malandarri Festival** is a special community-based event that celebrates both traditional and contemporary arts and cultural practices from the four clan groups living in Borroloola – the Yanyuwa, Garrwa, Gurdanji and Mara people. Special guests for 2017 included dance groups from across the NT with a school parade and Pacific Island dancing, marketplace, workshops, art, traditional food, kids' activities and much more!

Through various workshops in the lead up to the event, **Malandarri Festival** provides the Borroloola community with a foundation for the necessary training and opportunities needed for it to grow into an independent, self-determined

celebration. The artistic model developed for **Malandarri Festival** includes a wide range of artistic and cultural activities that take place throughout the year in both Borroloola and Robinson River.

Please check the website closer to the date for details about **Malandarri Festival** in 2018 and 2019.





Numburindi Festival, Numbulwar – 14 to 16 September

Numburindi Festival 2017 will run over three nights to deliver a children and youth program and a traditional dance and music program that showcases the cultural and artistic excellence of the Gulf of Carpentaria region and South East Arnhem Land. The event will feature the talents of the four clan groups of Numbulwar and also invited dance groups and bands from across the Gulf Region and beyond, making **Numburindi Festival** an exciting platform for cross cultural sharing and exchange.

Come watch internationally renowned **Red Flag Dancers** and the **Ngalmi, Murrungun** and **Nunggargalu** dance groups. They will be joined by visiting dance groups that have close familial and cultural connections with Numbulwar. Local bands will include **Yilila Band**, **Mambali Band** and youth band **NT Express** as well as performances by the local school band.

Please check the website closer to the date for details about Numburindi Festival in 2018 and 2019.

Everyone gets involved in the Brolga Dance of the Ngalmi Clan at Numburindi Festival 2016, photo by Benjamin Bayliss





Artback NT