



**Art Gallery**  
of Western Australia

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# mediaRelease

## Artist in focus Yirrkala artists **Everywhen** bark paintings from the State Art Collection



**Djambawa Marawili**  
*Baru Ga Yathikpa – Crocodile dreaming*  
1984  
ochres on stringy bark (eucalyptus)  
159 x 63cm  
State Art Collection, Art Gallery of Western Australia  
Purchased 1984

*Everywhen*, on show at the Art Gallery of Western Australia from **Saturday 31 January** through to **Sunday 31 May 2009**, explores the richness and beauty of bark paintings from the Yirrkala community of north-east Arnhem Land. This exhibition will feature selected works from the State Art Collection, including many that were acquired by collector Louis Allen between the late 1950s and 1970s.

It is difficult to define Indigenous relationships to the land, systems of belief, law and traditional ceremony in a way that easily transfers into the English language or a Western understanding. In 1968, anthropologist and theorist W.E.H. Stanner described what is commonly known as the 'Dreaming' using the term 'everywhen'. 'Everywhen' describes something that is somewhat timeless, not fixed in the past but part of the present and the future, all at the same time.

Works in this exhibition illustrate contemporary issues, clan titles to land and identity, Creation Beings and the formation of the physical and the metaphysical. As the term 'everywhen' describes a state of always, these works are timeless contemporary pieces of art in their own right, imbued with immense cultural wealth and aesthetic value as fine art.

Art Gallery Director Stefano Carboni said, "We are delighted that this exhibition signals the culmination of the inaugural three-year Indigenous Curatorial Internship for Chad Creighton. Chad has completed a post-graduate diploma in Applied Heritage Studies alongside three years of on the job training in museology at the Gallery. The internship was supported by AngloGold Ashanti Australia Pty Ltd, Carey Mining Pty Ltd, Downer EDI Pty Ltd and Curtin University of Technology, and we'd like to thank all our partners in this initiative."



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES CONTACT:**

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