

## ***Patrick Mung Mung***

**Language: Gija**

Born around 1944 at Yunurrel (Spring Creek), Patrick Mung Mung is a senior Gija elder who lives at Warmun in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia. Mung Mung was a leading figure in the establishment of the Warmun Art Centre, which has produced many of Australia's prominent Indigenous artists including the late Rover Thomas.

Mung Mung began his arts practice after the passing of his father, George Mung Mung, who was an equally respected elder and an artist of national acclaim. In 1991 Patrick accompanied his father's carving Mary of Warmun to Canberra for the exhibition Aboriginal Art and Spirituality, an event that is credited as the genesis of his extensive art career.

Like many Indigenous artists, Mung Mung has had a long career in the cattle industry. Working as a stockman for Texas Downs Station and others in the East Kimberley area allowed him to remain on and near "country" and to live alongside his family, who were strong in culture. This accumulated knowledge of country and kin has had a lasting influence on his art.

Mung Mung uses soft and hard palettes of natural pigments extracted from his local surrounds. His paintings tell of the Ngarrangkarni (Dreaming) stories, the stories of Jarlarlu his father's country and more recently of Ngarrgooroon country, which is characterised by hilly terrain and waterholes. The narratives are often presented as landscapes, comprising creamy sections of colour that vary in size and shape. These are sewn together by white dotted lines that simultaneously join and separate the composition, as well as provide movement across the canvas. This style of dotting is a traditional technique commonly used in the region, as is the flat view that Mung Mung adopts.

Mung Mung has had five solo exhibitions in Perth and Melbourne, and his work has been selected for many group exhibitions in all states, including the 17th, 18th, and 22nd Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award of 2000, 2001 and 2005, and for several exhibitions in Germany.

His work is represented in numerous state and private collections including the National Gallery of Victoria, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Parliament House Collection, Canberra, Artbank and the Kerry Stokes Collection.

(Author: Carly Lane)