

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1169

Marika, Marmburra Wananumba Banduk

(1954 -)

Nationality Australian

Born 1 January, 1954, Yirrkala Northern Territory Australia

Occupation Artist, Community worker, Filmmaker

Summary

Marmburra Wananumba Banduk Marika has been an active member of the Aboriginal arts scene since 1980, working with prints and film.

On Australia Day 2019 she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) 'for distinguished service to the visual arts, particularly to Indigenous printmaking and bark painting, and through cultural advisory roles'.

Details

Marmburra Wananumba Banduk Marika, of the Rirratjingu clan of the Yolngu people, was born in 1954 at Yirrkala in the Northern Territory. She received a traditional education as well as attending the Yirrkala mission school. In 1973 she moved to Darwin and the following year became secretary for the Northern Land Council. In 1980 she moved to Sydney, where she began her career as an artist.

Marika has had a number of solo exhibitions of her prints and has been an artist-in-residence at the Sydney School of Art, East Sydney Technical College, Flinders University, the Canberra School of Art and Warrnambool TAFE. She has also worked with Film Australia as a translator on the film *Women of the Sun* and has appeared in three others: *Bride for All Seasons!*, *Flight into Hell* and *Cactus*. She directed *Banduk*, which won the major International Children's Film award, and was involved in the making of a documentary, *Dream-Time, Machine-Time*, for ABC television.

In 1988 Marika returned to Yirrkala, and became manager of Buku-Larrngay Arts and Crafts. In 1992 she was elected vice-chairperson of Dhimurru Land and Sea Management, the Aboriginal board of management for northeast Arnhem Land. She was also chairperson of the Aboriginal Visual Arts Committee of the Australia Council for the Arts. She has been a member of a number of bodies, including the Australian National Gallery, the Yirrkala-Dhanbul Community Council and the Mawalan Gamarrwa Nuwul Association.

Events

2019 - 2019

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)

Published resources

Edited Book

The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia : Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, society and culture, Horton, David, 1994

Book

Women of the sun, Maris, Hyllus and Sonia Borg, 1985

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Author Details

Leonarda Kovacic and Barbara Lemon

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