Speaking multiple, separate languages, artists living across North West Australia create artworks that show distinctive styles emanating from local law, culture and Country.

To find place names referred to on these pages you may like to refer to the map on the last page of this booklet.

Highlighting fifteen diverse areas of practice, the artworks here show a range of styles from Central Australia, the Roper River Region, Tiwi Islands, Kimberley and Arnhem Land.

Along with identifiable areas of stylistic practice, each artist's hand is recognisable too, like handwriting.

Intensely rich & diverse, artists use a variety of materials and pigments from wood to natural earth ochres, acrylic paint, inks, fibres and natural to synthetic adhesives. Ochre colours can often pin-point an artist's specific place in Country. The juxtaposition of colours often has significant meaning too.

Lily Nungarrayi Yirdingali Jurrah Hargraves painting 'Womens Dreaming' 2014. Acrylic pigment on linen 1800 x 1500 mm. Speaking Warlpiri, 'Jurrah' paints in her artists' owned community Art Centre at Lajamanu, Northern Central Australia, Northern Territory. ©The Artist & Warnayaka Arts, Palya Art 2523.



Willie Gudupi & Moima Willie's painting, untitled (Alawa Country). Early 1990's. Acrylic paint on canvas 1770 x 1270 mm. Speaking the Alawa language, husband and wife lived in Yugul Mangl, (Ngukurr) (Roper River Area). ©The Artists & Family, Palya Art 0245.



Judy Napangardi Watson's painting 'Ngalyipi Jukurrpa' (Vine Dreaming). 1998. Acrylic pigment on linen. 1070 x 940 mm Napangardi spoke Warlpiri and lived and worked in between Lajamanu and Yuendumu, Central Australia. ©The Artist & Warlukurlangu Artists, Palya Art 0278.

Right: Makinti Napanangka's painting 'Untitled'.1998. Acrylic pigment on linen 1220 x 1200 mm. Napanangka spoke Pintupi all her life. Her country lies in the Lake Macdonald area of Central Australia, seen on the map near the later established communities of Kintore & Kiwirrkura. ©Papunya Tula







Right: Kathleen Ngala's painting 'Bush Plum Dreaming' 2002. Acrylic paint on linen. 1370 x 1830 mm. An Eastern Anmatyerr language speaker, Ms Ngala's country and where she paints is in the area near Utopia, Central Australia. ©Kathleen Ngala, Palya Art 0852.

Peter Goodjie's 'Body Painting' 1992. Acrylic pain on canvas board. 760 x 560 mm. A Wangkatjungka speaker from Fitzroy Crossing in Southern Kimberley, Mr Goodjie and other Mangkaja Arts Centre artists use of acrylic pigments are akin to the materials employed in contemporary art practice in Central Australia. ©The Artist & Mangkaja Arts, Palya Art 0021.





Heny Gambika Nupurra's 'Banunburr', Morning Star Pole. 1999. Wood ochre pigments, feathers, bush string & cotton. 1710 x 140 mm. Speaking Djambarrpuyngu Mr. Nuparra lived and created on Elcho Island, far North East Arnhem Land. ©The Artist & Elcho Island Arts & Craft, Palya Art 0412 A. Pukumani Pole, 'Tutini' by James Tipiloura. 2002. Ironwood carving and natural ochres pigments. 2150 mm. A Tiwi speaker from Melville Island, the Eastern Isle of the Tiwi Islands, James Tipiloura creates his art pieces in his coastal home of Milikapiti. ©The Artist & Jilamara Arts, Palya Art 0915







Rover Thomas's painting 'Wolf Creek Crater' 1996. Natural earth ochres on Belgian linen. 505 x 765 mm. Speaking Kukatja & Wankajunga, Rover was born near Kunawarritji (Well 33) then lived in East Kimberley. ©Rover Thomas, Palya Art 0049



Queenie Nakarra McKenzie's painting 'Children's Picnic'. 1996. Natural earth ochres on canvas. 600 x 900 mm. A great friend of Rover Thomas and teacher, Queenie spoke East Kimberley's Gidja language. ©Queenie McKenzie, Palya Art 0187.

Lily Karedada's bark painting 'Wandjina' 1995. Natural ochres on bark. 780 X 540 mm. Speaking Woonambal from Kalumburur in the Northern Kimberley region in Western Australia, Mrs. Karedada affirms the important spirit figures that can be found, sometimes, in secreted rock surfaces through her country. ©Lily Karedada, Palya Art 0028.

B. Pukumani Pole, 'Tutini' by Leon Puruntutameri. 2002. Ironwood carving and natural ochres pigments. 1720 mm. Also a Tiwi speaker from Milikapiti on Melville Island, Leon Puruntutameri works too with his community Art Centre, Jilamara Arts & Crafts ©The Artist & Jilamara Arts, Palya Art 0917

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Wamud Namok AO (Bardayal "Lofty" Nadjamerrek). Painting, untitled. 2001. Natural ochres on paper. 760 x 1020 mm. From Gunbalanya (Oenpelli), Western Arnhem Land, Wamud Namok spoke both Kunwinjku & Kundedjnjenghmi languages. ©The Artist & Injalak Arts & Crafts, Palya Art 1138.



Lulu Laradjbi's bark painting, untitled, (Yawk Yawk With Young). 2005. Natural earth pigments with binder on bark. 1610 x 610 mm. Speaking Kuninjku language from her home Yikarrakkal, near Maningrida, Central Northern Arnhem Land, Lulu Laradjbi is of the Yirrridjdja moiety and Dangkorlo clan. ©The Artist & Maningrida Arts & Culture, Palya Art 1603