

Johnathon World Peace Bush

The Last Supper and the Big Breakfast

Jilamara Arts and Crafts Association



JILAMARA
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2021

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Jilamara Arts and Crafts
Melbourne Art Fair 2022

“We are fighting for recognition for our existence in our past and our present and with the future. From the lesson of old to the lesson of new. This is my painting of my people fighting against the foreign power. My people had spears. They had rifles. Using powerful things to try to overpower my people in my native land... It is important to link the past to the present for healthy future regeneration. Like a chain reaction. To fix up a family tree you have to go down to the roots and into the past.” – Johnathon Bush

For the 2022 Melbourne Art Fair emerging artist, poet and human rights advocate Johnathon World Peace Bush presents *The Last Supper and the Big Breakfast* – a presentation of his unique ochre paintings, alongside a furniture collaboration featuring Johnathon’s textiles and screened video performance that brings footage of Johnathon on Country on the Tiwi Islands to this year’s art fair.

At MAF Johnathon will present a selection of large-scale politically engaged figurative paintings. All painted in natural earth pigments of the Tiwi Islands, these works re-imagine old anthropological images of Tiwi people, Catholic figureheads covered in Tiwi body paint design and ceremonial ornaments, as well as various accounts of his family’s historical encounters with colonial forces. One of the dominant colonial experiences for the Tiwi came through the establishment of a Catholic mission on Bathurst Island in 1911. Johnathon applies associated imagery alongside a Tiwi visual language that predates the Renaissance, to make work that questions mainstream assumptions.

For this event, Johnathon is also collaborating with a furniture designer/maker to create unique upholstered dining chairs featuring his colourful fabric design *World Peace Tiwi Treaty* that combines jilamara (body paint design) and text in Tiwi language that calls for World Peace and a Treaty for the Tiwi people.

Johnathon World Peace Bush is an exciting and dynamic Tiwi artist whose bold vision and clear voice has gained interest through recent institutional outcomes including the 2020 TIWI exhibition at NGV Australia, 52 Artists, 52 Actions through Artspace in Sydney and most recently his current inclusion in UNLEARNING AUSTRALIA a major survey of contemporary Australian artists at SeMA the Seoul Museum of Art in South Korea.

“I hope my artwork gives a glimpse into my strong beliefs of a want for world peace and equality for all humankind.” – Johnathon Bush



Johnathon World Peace Bush
Black Lives Matter
2020
150cm x 120cm
Locally sourced earth pigments on canvas



Johnathon World Peace Bush
Pope Julius
2021
150cm x 120cm
Locally sourced earth pigments on linen



Johnathon World Peace Bush
Pope Sixtus
2021
150cm x 120cm
Locally sourced earth pigments on linen



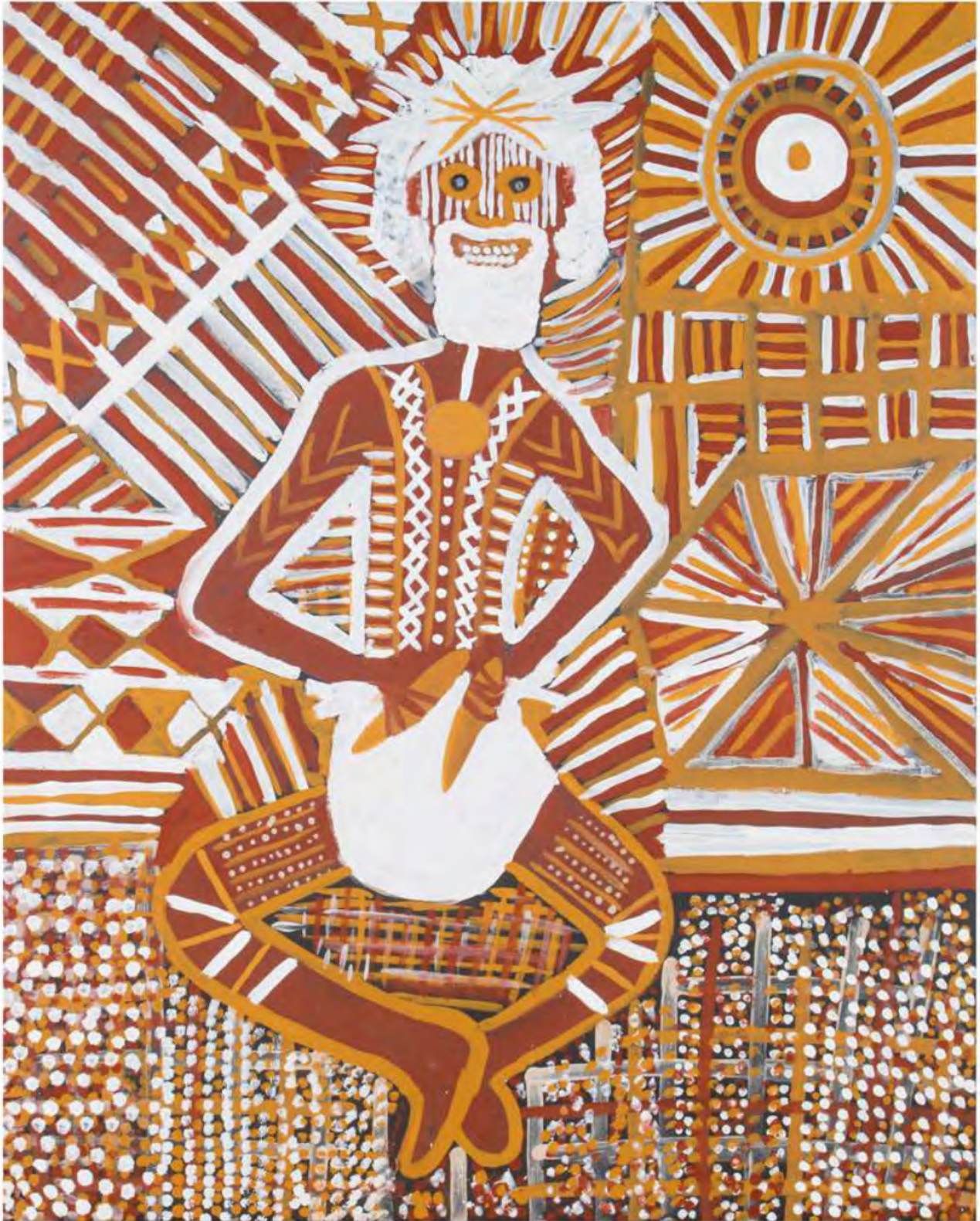
Johnathon World Peace Bush
Pope Innocent
2021
150cm x 120cm
Locally sourced earth pigments on linen



Johnathon World Peace Bush
Wulimawi (old people)
2021
150cm x 120cm
Locally sourced earth pigments on canvas



Johnathon World Peace Bush
Yoyi (dance)
2021
150cm x 120cm
Locally sourced earth pigments on linen



Johnathon World Peace Bush
Wulimani (old man)
2020
150cm x 120cm
Locally sourced earth pigments on canvas



Johnathon World Peace Bush
Rio Jesus and the Last Supper
2021
120cm x 200cm
Locally sourced earth pigments on linen



Johnathon World Peace Bush
The Last Supper
2021
150cm x 200cm
Locally sourced earth pigments on linen



Johnathon World Peace Bush
Murrintawi (white people)
2021
150cm x 200cm
Locally sourced earth pigments on linen



Johnathon World Peace Bush X Rex Heathcote Furniture
World Peace, Tiwi Treaty textiles (screen print on hanky linen), Tasmanian Oak with Burl inlay
2022





Johnathon World Peace Bush
Tartuwali Yoyi (shark dance)
2020
1 minute 30 seconds, single-channel video
edition of 5 + 2AP



CONTACT AND ENQUIRIES

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ABOUT Jilamara Arts and Crafts Association

Originally an adult education centre in the 1980s, Jilamara Arts became an incorporated non-profit Tiwi governed art centre in 1989. Ever since the organisation's vision has been to support the contemporary art careers of its members and keep culture strong in the small community of Milikapiti.

The term Jilamara describes "body paint design" based on ceremonial ochre markings on the body. Reimagining these styles at the art centre has fostered a dynamic creative field for maintaining Tiwi knowledge, as well as sharing and celebrating contemporary living culture. These performative foundations have directed the organisation's course for decades, from its origins in translating jilamara design to screen-printed garments as an adult education centre in the 1980s to producing major exhibition outcomes as an indigenous governed art centre in more recent decades.

"From body it moved onto bark and then canvas, silk, printing and now we are moving into digital. Culture is evolving with time." – Colin Heenan-Puruntatameri, 2019

Through workshops, training and representation Jilamara members of diverse abilities are supported to build careers as internationally renowned artists. In the community, the art centre is also an important place for local school children to learn through culture classes and for many generations of Tiwi people to build bright futures.

BIOGRAPHY

NAME	Johnathon World Peace Bush
BORN	1974
REGION	Milikapiti, Melville Island
COUNTRY	Goose Creek
LANGUAGE	Tiwi
SKIN GROUP	Takaringuiw (Scaly Mullet)
DANCE	Tartuwali (Shark)

“For both my Tiwi people and my global family I want culture to be strong. If you don’t have culture, you fall and have to fight to reconnect. Without culture we are all lost...I hold the Western and Aboriginal law in my hands for all humankind to be equal. I have to balance both laws. I have been through many obstacles in order for my words to be heard.”

Johnathon World Peace Bush expresses his views on equality, culture, art and language through painting, writing, song and dance.

Johnathon’s ochre paintings present a unique combination of Tiwi culture and his personal views on global politics, family and cultural heritage. He adopts some painting techniques that reflect jilamara (Tiwi body paint design) and combines them with representations of political figureheads, Catholic imagery that relates to the colonial experience of the Tiwi, stories of colonial crimes against indigenous people or adaptations of old anthropological images of First Australians.

“I hope my artwork gives a glimpse into my strong beliefs of a want for world peace and equality for all humankind.”

Johnathon World Peace Bush lived for many years in Borroloola working as a stockman at an outstation herding horse and cattle. Johnathon’s father is from Borroloola and his mother is from Milikapiti. He moved back to Milikapiti to be with his mother’s family and started working at Jilamara Arts and Crafts Association in 2015.

CURRICULUM VITAE

EXHIBITIONS

2022

The Last Supper and the Big Breakfast, Melbourne Art Fair, Jilamara Arts and Crafts Association

2021

UN/LEARNING AUSTRALIA, Artspace and SeMA, South Korea (upcoming)

Salon de Refuses, Salon Art Projects, Darwin (Online)

52 Artists, 52 Actions, Artspace, NSW

Jilamara, Japingka Gallery, Fremantle, Western Australia

2020

TIWI Exhibition, National Gallery of Victoria Australia, Melbourne

Groundswell, NCCA, Darwin NT

Yalininga Ngaripantingija Ngirramini, Aboriginal Signature Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

Jilamara: circles, dots, lines, Artspace, Woolloomooloo, Sydney

2019

Pupini Jilamara Nginingwula (Our Beautiful Paintings), Double Tree Hilton, NT

Tiwi Jilamara, Queenscliff Gallery and Workshop, Queenscliff VIC

Tarnanthi Art Fair, Tandanya, Adelaide, SA

turnuwa amintiya kirijipuni, Short Street Gallery, Broome, WA

2018

Jilamara and Munupi Arts group exhibition, Chapman & Bailey, Melbourne, VIC

Tarnanthi Art Fair, Tandanya, Adelaide, SA

Nginingawula Awirankini Waki (Our New Work), Jilamara and Munupi Group exhibition, Double Tree Hilton, Darwin

One island one side, Yati Ratuwati Yatuwati, Munupi and Jilamara working together, Aboriginal Signature Estrangin Fine Art Gallery, Belgium

2017

Ngini Parlingarri Amintiya Ningani, held in conjunction with Print Council of Australia, Collins Place Gallery, Melbourne

Ngini Parlingarri Amintiya Ningani, Nomad Art Gallery, Darwin, NT

Yirringinkiri Pwoja, Hilton Double Tree, Darwin, NT

2016

Ngawila Jilamara, Hilton Double Tree, Darwin, NT

COLLECTIONS

Art Gallery of New South Wales

National Gallery of Victoria

Macquarie Group Collection

Artbank