

# FACT SHEET

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## HOOD MUSEUM OF ART KICKS OFF TOUR OF FIRST MAJOR EXHIBITION OF ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIAN BARK PAINTINGS IN U.S. ON SEPT. 3

<b>What:</b>	<i>Madayin: Eight Decades of Aboriginal Australian Bark Painting from Yirrkala</i>
<b>When</b>	Sept. 3-Dec. 4, 2022
<b>Where:</b>	Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth, Hanover, N.H., USA
<b>Admission:</b>	Free
<b>Significance:</b>	<p><i>Madayin: Eight Decades of Aboriginal Australian Bark Painting from Yirrkala</i> is the first major exhibition of Aboriginal Australian bark paintings to tour the United States and the first curated by Yolŋu for an international audience. It traces more than 80 years of significant contributions to global modern and contemporary art by some of Australia's leading artists. Many of the over 80 works of art on view have never been seen in the U.S. before now.</p> <p>A key component of <i>Madayin</i> is a commission of 33 new works by 29 important Yolŋu artists including Djambawa Marawili AM, Dhuwarrwarr Marika, Guynbi Ganambarr, Nonggirrŋa Marawili, Naminapu Maymuru-White and Wukun Wanambi.</p>
<b>Content:</b>	<p>For millennia, Yolŋu people around Yirrkala in northern Australia have painted their clan designs on their bodies and ceremonial objects. These designs are not merely decorative; they are the sacred patterns of the ancestral land itself. Yolŋu describe them as <i>madayin</i> — a term that encompasses both the sacred and the beautiful. In the 20th century, Yolŋu people turned to painting on eucalyptus bark with ochres to express the power and beauty of their culture. Today, the artists of Yirrkala are at the forefront of Australian contemporary art.</p>
<b>Organizers:</b>	<p>Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia, in partnership with the Buku-Larrŋgay Mulka Centre in Australia. The Hood Museum also collaborated on the exhibition's content and presentation.</p>

- Curators:** Djambawa Marawili, Wukun Wanambi, Yinimala Gumana, Wäka Mununggurr, Henry Skeritt and Kade McDonald.
- Publication:** A 352-page bilingual catalog (in Yolŋu Matha and English), edited by Wukun Wanambi, Henry Skeritt and Kade McDonald and distributed by DelMonico Books, accompanies the exhibition. The catalog will focus on Yolŋu voices, with contributions from Djambawa Marawili, Dela Mununggurr, Wukun Wanambi and Yinimala Gumana, alongside essays from leading non-Indigenous scholars, including Howard Morphy and Frances Morphy.
- Related Programs:** Celebration weekend of Sept. 22-24, 2022 will feature a range of public events including ceremonial launching of the exhibition by a delegation of Yolŋu artists from Yirrkala.

**Introductory Tour: *Maḏayin***

Sept. 22: 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Join exhibition curator Henry Skeritt, assistant professor in the Department of Art and curator at the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia.

**Livestreamed Lecture: "Yolŋu at Heart: A Model for Intercultural Collaboration"**

Sept. 22: 7-8 p.m.

Kluge-Ruhe Director Margo Smith recounts the remarkable story of *Maḏayin* with Djambawa Marawili.

**Opening Ceremony and Reception: *Maḏayin***

Sept. 23: 4:30-6 p.m.

Join the official opening ceremony of *Maḏayin: Eight Decades of Aboriginal Australian Bark Painting from Yirrkala*.

**Community Day: Kinship in Australian Aboriginal Bark Painting**

Sept. 24: 1-4 p.m.

Join this drop-in program to learn about how the Yolŋu people in northern Australia express the power and beauty of their culture through the medium of eucalyptus bark painting. There will be in-gallery activities and art-making projects for all ages.

**Artists in Conversation: *Maḏayin***

Sept. 24: 2-4 p.m.

A conversation between Yolŋu artists about the practice of bark painting and the significance of sharing their artistic and cultural practices with audiences in the United States.

Additional details available at [hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu/events](https://hoodmuseum.dartmouth.edu/events)

**Credits:**

*Madayin: Eight Decades of Aboriginal Australian Bark Painting from Yirrkala* is organized by the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia in partnership with the Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre, Yirrkala. It is supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Australian Government, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Australia Council for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and Crozier Fine Arts. Its presentation at the Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth is generously supported by the Charles Gilman Family Endowment, the Owen and Wagner Collection of Aboriginal Australian Art Endowment Fund and the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation. The exhibition has been made possible through the longstanding relationship between Kluge-Ruhe and the Yolŋu community at Yirrkala.

**Tour:**

Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth, Hanover, N.H.: Sept. 3-Dec. 4, 2022

American University Museum at the Katzen Art Center, Washington, D.C.: Feb. 4-May 21, 2023

Kleefeld Contemporary Art Museum at California State University, Long Beach: Aug. 20, 2023-Jan. 14, 2024

Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia: Feb. 22-July 21, 2024

Asia Society, New York: Sept. 24, 2024-Jan. 5, 2025

**More information:** [madayin.kluge-ruhe.org](https://madayin.kluge-ruhe.org)

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**About the Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth**

The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth centers art and people in teaching and learning through inclusive and robust academic, cultural and civic engagements with art and its histories. It seeks to advance learning, care and connections through the reach and relevance of visual art and material culture as a nexus for the exchange of ideas. With its renewed focus on serving Dartmouth's faculty and academic mission, the recently expanded facility broadens the museum's reach to students, faculty and departments across campus, while deepening its engagement with its longtime stakeholders. It also makes a bolder statement about the significance of the arts within the life of Dartmouth and provides the arts district with an arresting front door to the Green.

**About the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection**

The Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection expands knowledge and understanding of Indigenous Australian arts and cultures to cultivate greater appreciation of human diversity and creativity. With a collection of more than 2,200 objects, Kluge-Ruhe offers

a variety of rich programming on-site and digitally. Its well-established residency programs bring eminent Indigenous artists and knowledge holders to Charlottesville to engage with the University of Virginia community and the public. Kluge-Ruhe is committed to expanding Indigenous leadership throughout the museum and creating high-value, immersive experiences to serve broader audiences.