

A large crocodile is the central focus of the image, positioned on a sandy beach. Its body is covered in detailed, textured scales, and its head is turned towards the right. The background shows the blue ocean meeting the shore. The overall scene is captured in a high-angle, slightly desaturated style.

MU
SEA
UM

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
MARITIME MUSEUM

Gapu-Monuk

SALT WATER

Blue Mud Bay and the story
of Indigenous Sea Rights

FEATURING LANDMARK BARK PAINTINGS
FROM RENOWNED YOLŪU ARTISTS

"Gapu-Monuk Saltwater is an impressive exhibition which is brave, original, meaningful and political"

Judges dissertation – Museums + Heritage Awards, London 2019

Exhibition for Hire

“It is time for non-Aboriginal people to learn about this land, learn about the waters. So if we are living the way of reconciliation, you must learn about Native Title and Sea Right.”

Djambawa Marawili, AM, 1999

Gapu-Monuk are words from the Yolŋu matha language, of North-East Arnhem Land. *Gapu* (water), *monuk* (salt), describes Saltwater.

Through the use of bark paintings holding sacred designs documenting Yolŋu connection and cultural ownership of their coastline the exhibition invites visitors to ‘journey to sea country’ to discover how the Yolŋu people of North-East Arnhem Land fought for and won their legal case for Indigenous sea rights.

Awards

WINNER Indigenous Project or Keeping Place Museums & Galleries National Awards 2018

WINNER Best Scenography for a Temporary Exhibition International Design Communication Awards 2018

WINNER of the International Project of the Year (less than £1 million), Museums & Heritage Awards, UK 2019

Exhibition content

- 39 Bark paintings: wall hung; 4 to be housed in showcases
- 8 Larrakitj (memorial poles or hollow log coffins)
- 14 Mokuy sculptures
- 1 Gany'tjurr and Minhala (white heron and long-necked fresh water turtle) sculpture
- Painting implements including ochre and paintbrushes
- Sea Rights Flag
- Object labels, theme, subtheme and image panels
- Display cases with their own lighting and climate control system
- Touchscreen interactives and audio visuals

Audience

Visitors with an interest in legal rights, the arts and Indigenous culture

Display period

3 months min, 6 months max



Size

400sqm (display size can be modified if required)

Visitation

284,108 (Sydney)

Previously exhibited

Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney, Australia

Support material

Installation manual, education kit, marketing materials, media release, catalogue available on consignment.

Contact

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Exhibition Producer

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In consultation with



Australian National Maritime Museum acknowledges all traditional custodians of the lands and waters throughout Australia and pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to elders both past and present.

The Yirrkala bark paintings are held in the National Maritime Museum Collection and were purchased with the assistance of Stephen Grant of the Grant Pirrie Gallery.