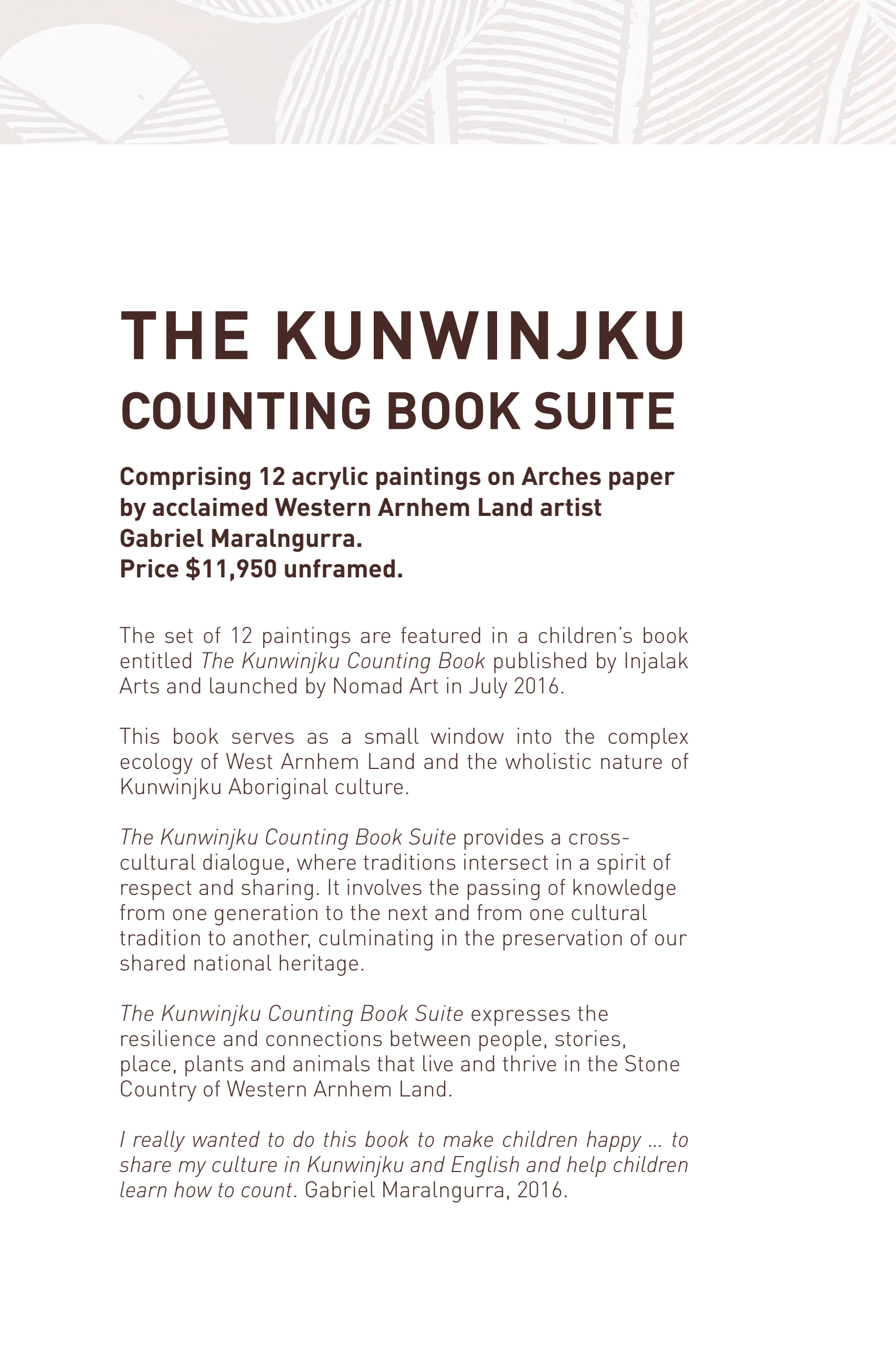


Nomad Art in conjunction with Injalak Arts present

THE KUNWINJKU COUNTING BOOK SUITE





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**Comprising 12 acrylic paintings on Arches paper
by acclaimed Western Arnhem Land artist
Gabriel Maralngurra.
Price \$11,950 unframed.**

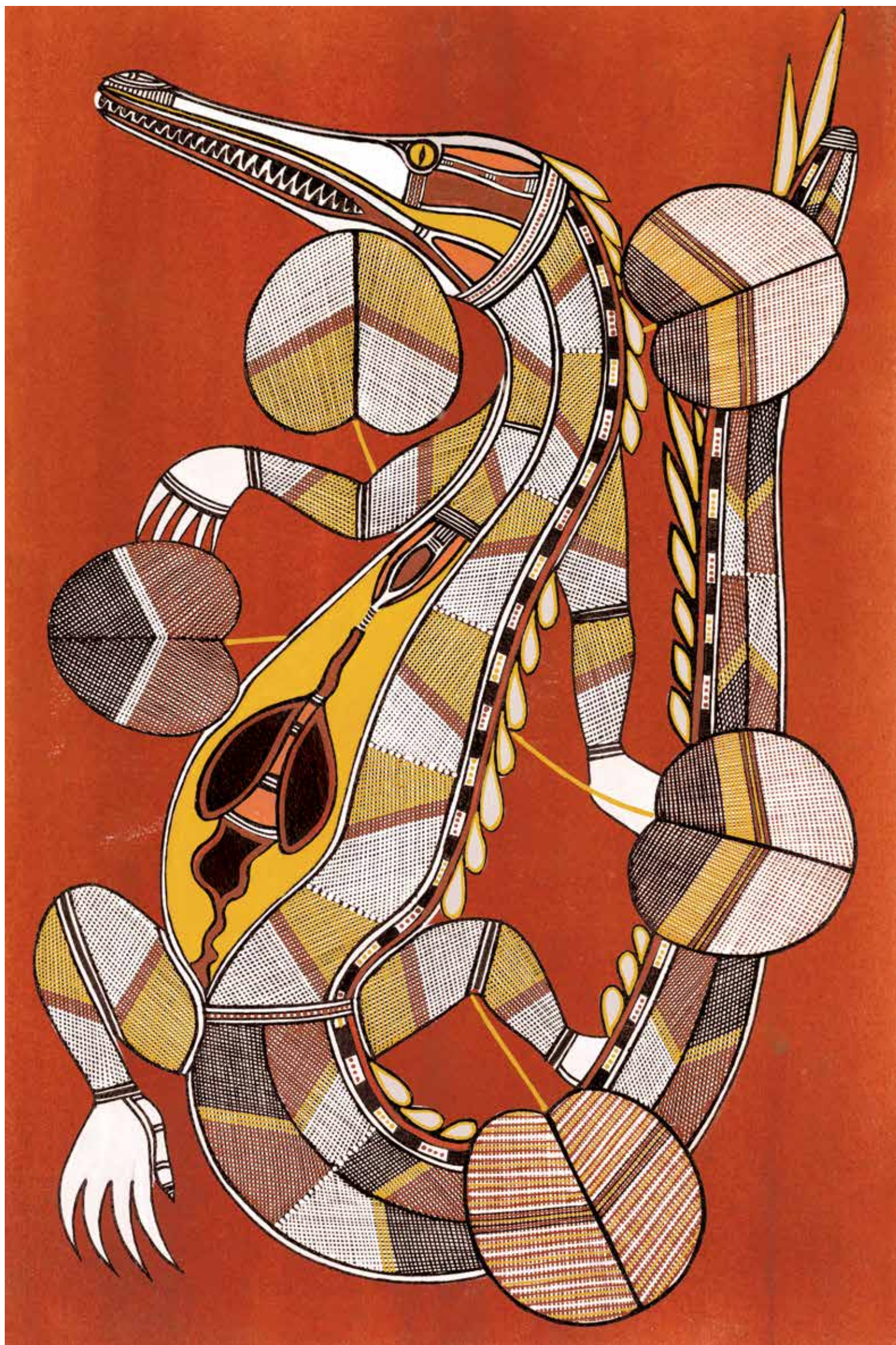
The set of 12 paintings are featured in a children's book entitled *The Kunwinjku Counting Book* published by Injalak Arts and launched by Nomad Art in July 2016.

This book serves as a small window into the complex ecology of West Arnhem Land and the wholistic nature of Kunwinjku Aboriginal culture.

The Kunwinjku Counting Book Suite provides a cross-cultural dialogue, where traditions intersect in a spirit of respect and sharing. It involves the passing of knowledge from one generation to the next and from one cultural tradition to another, culminating in the preservation of our shared national heritage.

The Kunwinjku Counting Book Suite expresses the resilience and connections between people, stories, place, plants and animals that live and thrive in the Stone Country of Western Arnhem Land.

I really wanted to do this book to make children happy ... to share my culture in Kunwinjku and English and help children learn how to count. Gabriel Maralngurra, 2016.



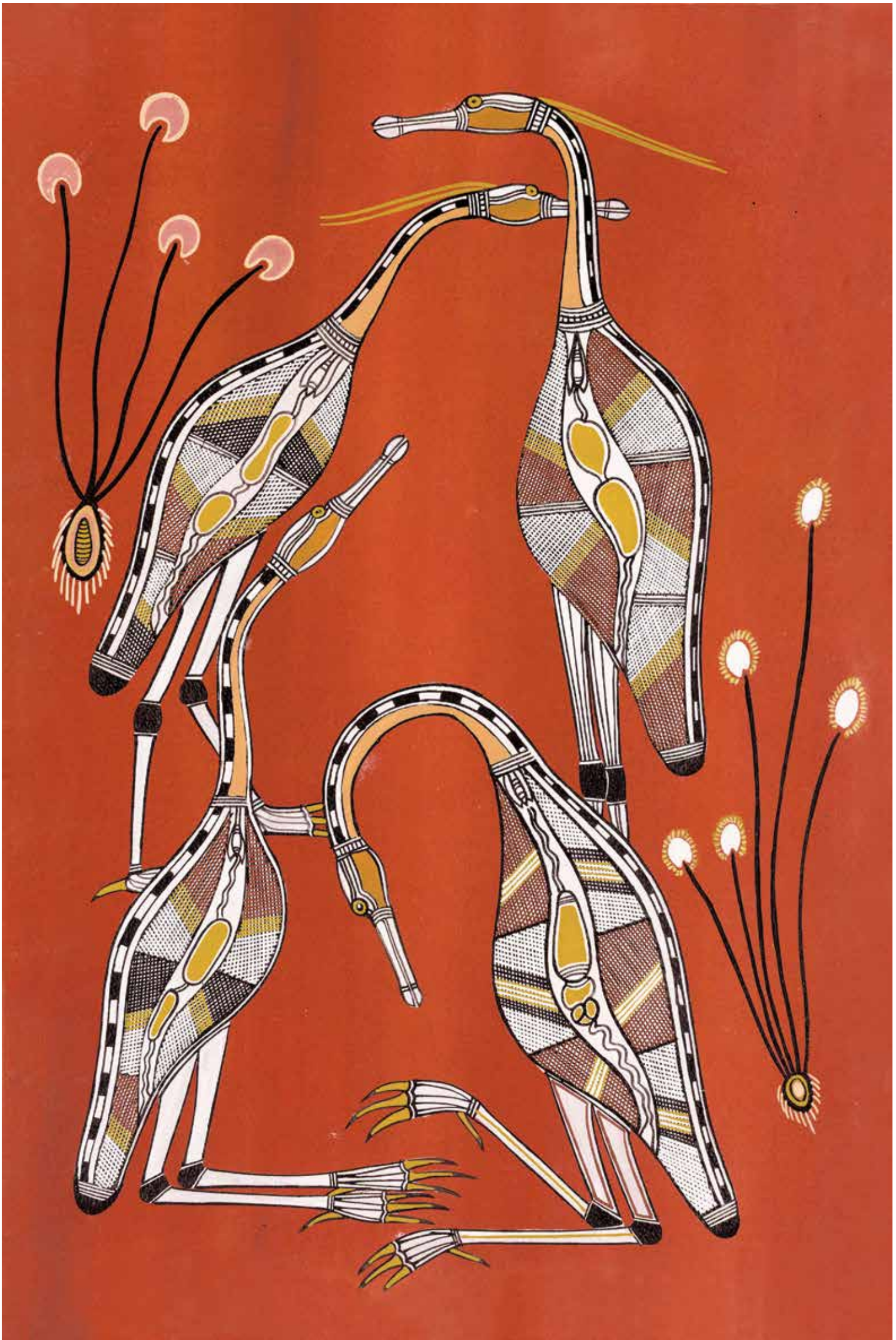
Kinga - Crocodile, acrylic on paper by Gabriel Maralngurra, 61 x 41 cm, 2015/16
Nakudji kinga kakarrme kunyidme - One crocodile with many sharp teeth



Ngalmangiyi - Long-Necked Turtle, acrylic on paper by Gabriel Maralngurra, 61 x 41 cm, 2015/16
Ngalmangiyi bokenh kabenedjuhme kore kulabbarl - Two snake-necked turtles swimming in a billabong



Burarr - Water Goanna, acrylic on paper by Gabriel Maralngurra, 61 x 41 cm, 2015/16
Danjbik burarr kabirri kukdayo - Three water goannas soaking up the sun



Kebbalhdjurri (Spoonbill), acrylic on paper by Gabriel Maralngurra, 61 x 41 cm, 2015/16
Kunkarrngbakmeng kebbalhdjurri kabirrihni kore kabbal - Four spoonbills standing on the floodplain



Nabarlek - Little Rock Wallaby, acrylic on paper by Gabriel Maralngurra, 61 x 41 cm, 2015/16
Kunbidkudji kornobolo karbirringun kunworr - Five agile wallabies eating leaves



Ngarrbek - Echidna, acrylic on paper by Gabriel Maralngurra, 61 x 41 cm, 2015/16
Kunbidkudji dja mankudji ngarrbek karribirni kore kunboy - Six echidnas inside an anthill



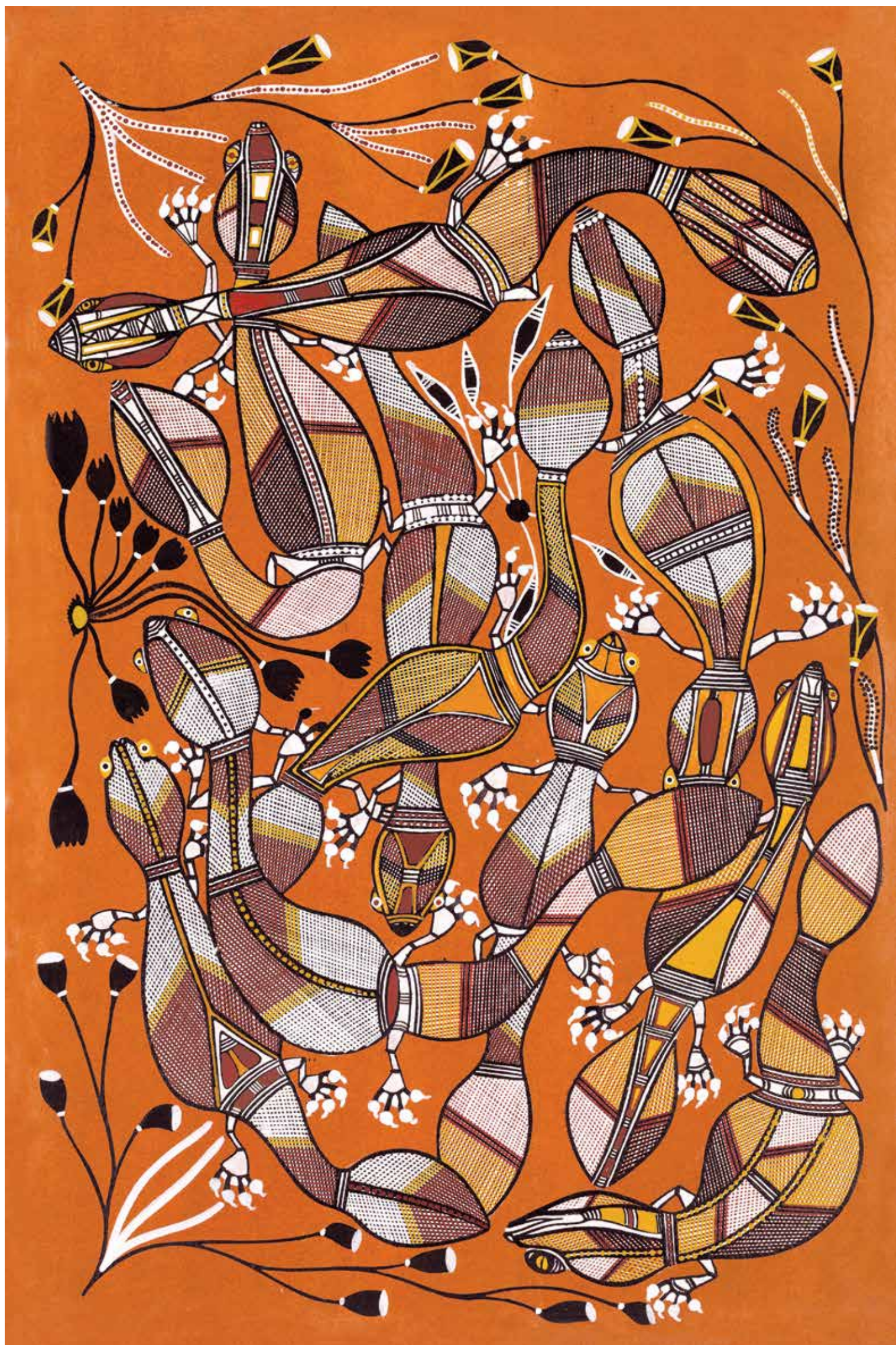
Djalangkarriidj-djalangkarriidj - Dragonfly, acrylic on paper by Gabriel Maralngurra, 61 x 41 cm, 2015/16
Kunbidkudji dja bokenh djalangkarriidjdjalangkarriidj kabirribarndi kore mannguy - Seven dragonflies resting on the flowers



Borlokko - Water Python, acrylic on paper by Gabriel Maralngurra, 61 x 41 cm, 2015/16
Kunbidkudji dja danjbik borlokko karribirri wake kukih - Eight water pythons slithering in the mud



Ngarderrhwo - Snapping/Shortneck Turtle, acrylic on paper by Gabriel Maralngurra, 61 x 41 cm, 2015/16
Kunbidkudji dja kunkarrngbakmeng ngarderrhwo kabirringun dumdum - Nine snapping turtles eating bugs

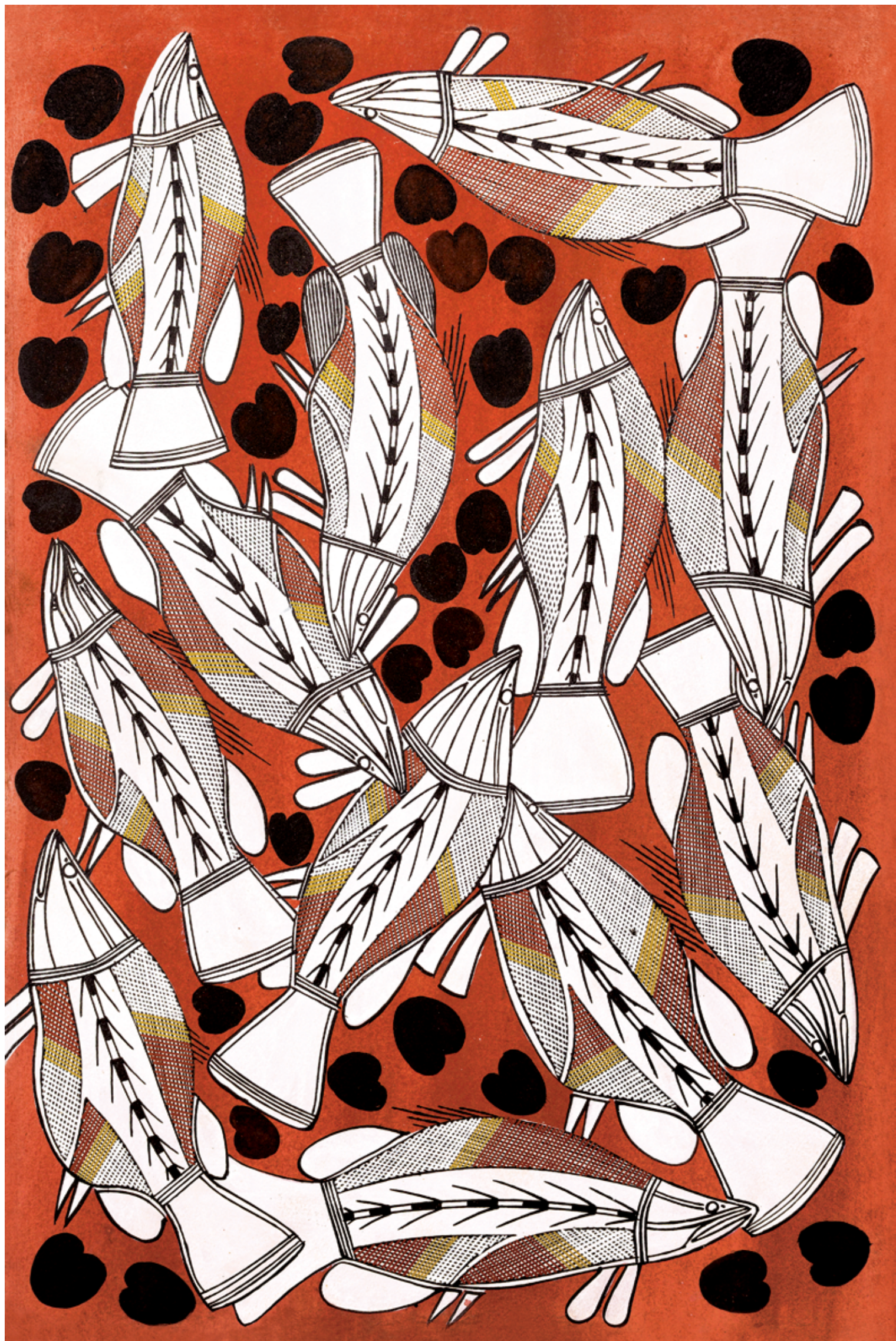


Boywek - Gecko, acrylic on paper by Gabriel Maralngurra, 61 x 41 cm, 2015/16

Kunbidkudji bokenh boywek kabirriwake kore kungarre - Ten knob-tailed geckos crawling on the ground



Wakih - Freshwater Shrimp, acrylic on paper by Gabriel Maralngurra, 61 x 41 cm, 2015/16
Kunbidkudji kunbidkudji dja mankudji wakih kabirri djuhme kore kukabo - Eleven freshwater prawns swimming in a creek



Djenj - Fish, acrylic on paper by Gabriel Maralngurra, 61 x 41 cm, 2015/16
Kunbidkudji kunbidkudji dja bokenh namarnkorl kabirri djuhme kore mankabo - Twelve barramundi swimming upstream

The Stone Country of Western Arnhem Land

is a unique, remote and richly diverse landscape. It encompasses a vast sandstone plateau escarpment, which rises out of low lying alluvial plains and wetlands. The plateau extends towards the coast in the northwest and gradually merges with the inland plains in the south.

Over millions of years water has shaped the sandstone into a rugged mosaic of rivers, gorges, waterfalls and ravines. In contrast, wide valleys provide habitats for a vast array of plants and animals. According to *Kunwinjku* traditional knowledge, water from the *nagudji andjeuk* (one rain) arrives over a composite cycle of six seasons and not only sculpts the contours of the plateau, but forms the landscape of the lowlands. The six seasons are indicated by the presence of certain flora and fauna that respond to the changing conditions. This cycle is captured by the mythology and knowledge of the *Kunwinjku* culture.

Kurrung is the time when the clouds and humidity start to build and the first rains arrive. A new flush of green grass stirs insects into life and fruits like *mankurndal* (black plum) appear. As the rains increase *namarnkol* (barramundi) are flushed out of waterholes, streams are transformed from isolated bead-like pools into rapidly flowing waterways.

Kudjewk (the wet season) follows as the monsoon delivers relentless rain, cyclones, winds and lightning. The plateau is saturated and the water cascades off the escarpment into waterholes, swamps and waterways. As the lowlands fill, a massive inland reservoir is created with sandstone islands that stretch beyond the horizon. It is the appearance of *karrbarda*, (long yam), *manimunak* (magpie geese) and the many fruits, that make this a season of plenty.

At the height of *kudjewk* these deeply mysterious wetlands erupt with life and become one of the most important tropical habitats in the world. Soon after *ngalkordow* (broilgas) and the *djilikuybi* (whistling ducks) hatch. The young chicks signal the beginning of the transition from turbulent water to the stillness of an inland freshwater sea. The water levels drop on the plains and rivers. It is the time to find *ngalmangiyi* (fresh water turtles) that live in the mud, feeding on the insects first stirred up by *kurrung*. This is *bankerreng* the last of the storms. The temperatures and the humidity are still high, while the water now trickles from the sandstone aquifer.

Slowly the nights become cooler, the winds swing to the south-east as *yekke* (the early dry season) approaches. It is a good time for hunting *kunj* (kangaroos), fat and easy to get to after the abundance of ‘The Wet’. The *andjamko* (grevilleas), *mandjoh* (acacias), *manbidubidu* (eucalypts flower) and *mandem* (water lilies) are everywhere. Western Arnhem Land burns as *manwurrk* (hunting fires) and mosaic burning spread across the drying land.

Wurrkeng is the heart of the dry season and there is still plenty of food around. *Mankung* (sugar bag) is abundant and the *ankong* (stringy bark) is harvested to make string bags. Slowly the wetlands become dry and cracked, the *ngalmangiyi* (turtles) dig deeper into the moist earth and the water birds flock around the remaining water holes. Later thunderclouds build again, signaling the cyclic return of *kurrung*.

Western Arnhem Land is also the home to the *Mok* Clan of the *Kunwinjku* people who have inhabited these lands for an uninterrupted period extending beyond 40,000 years. Their connection to the country is deeply ingrained in every aspect of life.

Kunwinjku people believe ancestral beings travelled through the country creating landmarks and places in which they continue to dwell, known as *Djang* (Dreaming). Accordingly the *Kunwinjku* people maintain a profound and ancient visual tradition. Paintings on rock, bark and (more recently) paper connect with ancient rituals, stories and spiritual associations. Rendered simply and directly with white and red ochre, these paintings narrate the soul and spirit of the Stone Country and its inhabitants.

The Kunwinjku Counting Book honours a continuing cross-cultural dialogue, where cultural traditions intersect in a spirit of respect and sharing. Where the passing of knowledge from one generation to the next is combined with the sharing of knowledge from one cultural tradition to another, culminating in the preservation of our shared national heritage.

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