



MUNGANBANA NORMAN MILLER

FIRST NATIONS ELDER
Bama Artist | Author |
Gallery Owner & Director

Contact

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Qualifications

Assoc Diploma of the Arts (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) 1991 Far North Qld Institute of TAFE

Recognition and Awards

- Bronze Medalist, Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPY), Chicago (2016) – Reef and Rainforest: An Aboriginal Voice Through Art and Story.
- Winner, Inaugural Oceania Art Prize (Open Section, 2006) – I Carried My Sons and Daughters.
- Selected Artist, ACCOR Hotels Plaque Project – commissioned by Elder Henrietta Marrie to acknowledge the Gimuy Walubarra Yidinji people.

DONATED ARTWORK BY MUNGANBANA NORMAN MILLER

- **Donated Artwork well in excess of of \$50,000 over 22 years. Several examples below**
- **From Sorry to Journey of Healing** Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd in Reconciliation Week 2011 at Parliament House Canberra
- **Boomerang Petition – “No Racism in the Constitution”** Museum of Australian Democracy, MoAD, Canberra 2020
- **The Gathering with an image of William Cooper** Sydney Jewish Museum 2020 at the launch of Barbara Miller’s William Cooper books. This painting had been used on the cover of her 2012 book on William Cooper.

PROFESSIONAL BIO

Munganbana Norman Miller is a celebrated rainforest Aboriginal **artist, author and gallery director** whose work carries the spirit of North Queensland’s World Heritage landscapes — from crystal cascades and volcanic lakes to reef, rainforest and wildlife. “Munganbana” means “**Mountain Water**” in **Jirrbal**, one of the rainforest tribes of the Atherton Tableland from which he draws heritage and inspiration. The name reflects both his Country and his style: art that is **powerful and peaceful**, bold in colour yet deeply grounded in ancestral connection. Munganbana is of the **Jirrbal, Bar-Barrum and Wadjanbarra Yidinji** tribes of North Queensland.

For **30 years**, Munganbana has provided cultural leadership as **Director of the Munganbana Reef and Rainforest Aboriginal Art Gallery**, where he maintains a **standing exhibition** and continues to develop a body of work that bridges traditional Aboriginal themes with contemporary techniques. His paintings are known for their striking use of colour and movement, capturing the interconnectedness of **sea, rainforest, wildlife and living systems** and invited viewers to experience Country as story, relationship and responsibility.

A storyteller as well as a visual artist, Munganbana’s narrative voice is shaped by family legacy. He is inspired by his grandfather, **Thomas Miller**, who wrote “Around the Campfire” for the *Sundowner* newspaper in Atherton. Thomas, a member of the Stolen Generations, became a notable local citizen — honoured with a mural in Atherton. That campfire tradition of truth-telling continues through Munganbana’s work: he has painted campfire scenes, created an outdoor “around the campfire” area, and delivered cultural experiences for groups such as **St Andrew’s College** students.

Munganbana is also recognised for **social justice art**, including his powerful large-scale boomerangs. One major work, bearing the message “**No Racism in the Constitution**,” sits in the **Museum of Australian Democracy in Canberra** and has featured in exhibitions there. With **360 signatures on the back**, it was presented to the Australian Parliament alongside **over 5,000 signatures** he gathered by hand petitioning for constitutional recognition of Indigenous people, based on Expert Panel recommendations.

His work has been widely exhibited and recognised. He has been a **Featured Artist at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair (CIAF)** (2024, 2016) and held a **solo exhibition at UMI Arts, Cairns** (2015). As an author, he created the award-winning book **Reef and Rainforest: An Aboriginal Voice Through Art and Story**, featuring **200 original paintings**, which received the **IPPY Bronze Medal** in Chicago (2016). He is also the **Winner of the Inaugural Oceania Art Prize** (Open Section, 2006) for *I Carried My Sons and Daughters*, and was a **commissioned artist for the ACCOR Hotels Plaque Project**, acknowledging the **Gimuy Walubarra Yidinji** people.

Alongside exhibitions and publishing, Munganbana remains deeply committed to cultural transmission. He **facilitates art and cultural workshops for schools and private groups**, sharing traditional knowledge through creative practice, story, and lived experience. Through every canvas, book and community project, Munganbana’s work speaks with clarity: Country is alive, story matters, and art can carry both beauty and change.

PLEASE NOTE A LIST OF DONATIONS AND VALUATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.