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kluge-ruhe  
Aboriginal art collection  
of the UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



Embassy of Australia  
Washington, D.C.



# CULTURE



Cover: Gabriel Maralngurra, Mimihi Spirits. Image courtesy Injalak Arts and Crafts

## schedule

7:00 PM	DOORS OPEN
7:30 PM	PLEASE FIND A SEAT
7:45 PM	INTRODUCTION BY EMCEE MICHAEL SWANBERG
8:00 PM	INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN DESIGNERS
	PANDANAH
	ELISA JANE CARMICHAEL
	MAYRAH + GAWAA MIYAY
8:20 PM	PERFORMANCE BY BILIIRR
8:40 PM	TEXTILE AND ACCESSORY DESIGNS BY:
	ARTISTS OF INJALAK ARTS AND CRAFTS
	JETTY LOVE
9:00 PM	PERFORMANCE BY BILIIRR
9:30 PM	UVA STUDENT DESIGNS
9:45 PM	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
10:00 PM	AFTER PARTY

## acknowledgements

### VOLUNTEERS

Genevieve Agar, Photographer  
Maia Bannan, Advisor  
Ashley Bell, General Volunteer  
Kakie Brooks, Advisor  
Sydney Collins, General Volunteer  
Rebecca Dahlberg, General Volunteer  
Rebecca Dirks, Marketing  
Mary Easton, Hair Stylist  
Beth Neville Evans, Pattern Maker  
Eileen French, Culture Couture Shop  
Louise Hamby, Advisor  
Judy Lee, General Volunteer  
Caroline Mannon, Marketing  
Hannah Menzner, Makeup Design  
Marshall Pittman, Co-Graphic Designer  
Tabitha Schaffner, Hair Stylist  
Terry Sheltra, Styling and Accessories  
Tracie Skipper, Advisor  
Dorothy Smith, Pattern Maker  
Jada Stinnie, Hair Stylist  
Madison Stringfellow, General Volunteer  
Michael Swanberg, Emcee  
Betsy Tucker, Advisor  
Katja Van Eersel, Makeup Design  
McKenzie Walker, Marketing  
Alison White, Marketing  
Jessie Zhang, Styling and Accessories

### SPECIAL THANKS

Hans Ahwang, Model Coach  
Kristopher Cody, Music Production  
Alison Copley, Australian Fashion Coordinator  
Marcy Linton, Professor & Pattern Maker  
Aqura Russell, Model Coach  
Olivia Tritschler, Co-Project Manager

### OTHER THANKS

Andrew Burnett, UVA Box Office  
Tom Cogill, Photographer  
Lee French, FDS Tents  
Clarence Green, Underground Shorts  
Julia Harris, Babbarra Women's Centre  
Denise Kilmer, Photoworks Creative Group  
Diann Lui, Erub Erwer Meta  
Dean Maupin, C & O Restaurant  
Bill Moretz, ProCamera  
Kate Riley, Injalak Arts and Crafts  
Devon Ryan, Jefferson Theater  
Phyllis Templeton, T & N Printing  
Mandy Tripcony, Merrepen Arts  
Karen Walker, Hedge Fine Blooms  
Felicity Wright, Injalak Arts and Crafts



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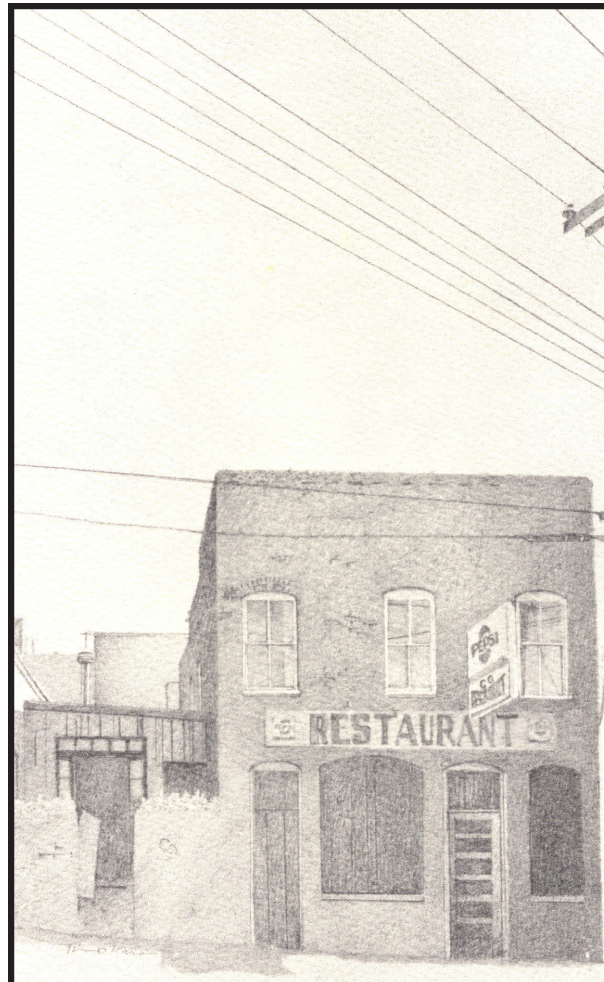
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## *about culture couture*

Indigenous Australian artists are designing beautiful textiles in the remote communities of northern Australia, and Indigenous Australian designers are creating beautiful lines of couture garments inspired by their belonging and connection to land. This event aims to showcase the recent movement of Indigenous involvement in the Australian fashion industry.

In January 2015 the Kluge-Ruhe Collection created a fashion design contest, prompting UVA students to submit original sketches for garments that would honor Indigenous hand-printed textiles as artworks themselves. Marcy Linton, Professor in the Department of Drama, agreed to offer an advanced course in Costume Technology in which students would fabricate the winning designs. After receiving numerous sketches, eight designs were selected and paired with fabric from four different communities in northern Australia: Babbarra Women's Centre, Injalak Arts and Crafts, Erub Erwer Meta, and Merrepen Arts. Alison Copley, an Australian arts and fashion professional, consulted on the project.

Patterns were made by Linton, Dorothy Smith, Costume Shop Supervisor in the Department of Drama, and local seamstress Beth Neville Evans. Seven students from various disciplines enrolled in Linton's course and successfully constructed their garments during the Fall 2015 semester. Part of the course involved learning about Indigenous Australian art and culture through visits to the Kluge-Ruhe Collection and skype conversations with textile artists at Babbarra Women's Centre.

To add depth and breadth to the performance, Australia's leading Indigenous designers were requested to design and fabricate couture garments for this event. Accessories designed or made by Indigenous designers, and accessories made from Indigenous-designed textiles, were procured for the runway and the Culture Couture shop.

We thank you for supporting the Kluge-Ruhe Collection by attending this event!

# australian indigenous designers

## **PANDANAH** Nicole Monks and Cara Mancini Geros

Nicole Monks is an Aboriginal (Wajarri Yamatji), Dutch & English woman who launched Pandanah through a ‘blackandwhite creative’ initiative to generate conscious design in the promotion of cultural awareness by collaborating with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal individuals and organizations. From Maui, Hawaii, Cara Mancini Geros journeyed to Australia to pursue a Masters of Fine Arts at the College of Fine Arts in Sydney and a Diploma in Graphic Design from CATC Design School in Sydney. Collectively they have over twenty-two years of experience in the fashion industry. Tonight’s range features the Gumnut Collection, which is inspired by the Australian bush and the Hawaiian floral color palette. Using only sustainable materials like kangaroo leather, linen, hemp, organic cotton and natural dyes, the prints are meant to bring two beautiful cultures together, reflecting traditional shapes and ideologies of traditional culture with a contemporary application. This range won a Sydney Design Award in 2015 for Surface Design.

**In order of appearance, modeled by** Vivan Pham, Sienna Turecamo, Jessica Wilson, Amy McMillen, Grace Patrice Anum, Erin Burks, Jada Stinnie, Katja Van Eersel, Ann Liu, and Remy Enoch.

## **ELISA JANE CARMICHAEL**

Elisa Jane Carmichael is a Ngugi woman who lives and works in Brisbane. This collection includes six sculptural forms of dress that form Carmichael’s dissertation for her Masters of Fine Art in Fashion from Queensland University of Technology. Using jersey offcuts, cotton twine and cotton fabric digitally printed with the designs of her paintings, Carmichael handmakes the cording that forms her garments using the traditional techniques of looping, twining and coiling. The undergarments for the garments were hand-dyed with ochres from Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island). “I have shaped my own stories, using my hands, weaving personal narratives into wearable mediums, reviving our ancestors’ traditional forms of everyday dress and contributing to an intergenerational history.”

**Modeled by** Annie Temmink, Cindy Zhang, Selina Ziyu Dai, Megan McDaniels, Elizabeth Schwartzchild, and Mary Hrovat.

# about kluge-ruhe

The **Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of the University of Virginia** is the only museum dedicated to the exhibition and study of Indigenous Australian art in the United States, and one of two in the world. Our mission is to advance knowledge and understanding of Australia’s Indigenous people and their art and culture worldwide. Working with living artists, international scholars and arts professionals, we provide a wide range of learning experiences to the University community and the public through exhibition, research and educational programs.

# about biliirr

Biliirr is trio of three sisters: **Jilda Simpson Andrews, Nardi Simpson, and Lucy Simpson**. As a group they are reclaiming their traditional Gamilaraay, Yuwaalaraay, Wiradjuri and Yorta Yorta languages of regional New South Wales and Victoria. They have toured worldwide as cultural ambassadors and take pride in celebrating contemporary cultural expression in its many forms.

Jilda Andrews is the Access and Outreach Programs Coordinator at National Museum Australia in Canberra, and is also a PhD candidate in the Anthropology Department of Australian National University. Her research interests lie in the fields of Indigenous cultural objects in museum collections and exhibitions, experiences of Indigenous Australians in museum contexts, and Indigenous treatments of new media technologies. Nardi Simpson is a musician with seventeen years of experience in performance and songwriting. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Aboriginal Studies and is best known for her involvement in the band The Stiff Gins, who produced three albums, toured worldwide and won numerous awards. She currently works as the Aboriginal Cultural Consultant on Special Projects for Taronga Conservation Society Australia. To learn about Lucy Simpson, please see the section of this program on Gawaa Miyay.

# the art centers

**Babbarra Women's Centre**, an enterprise of the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, started in the 1980s as a women's refuge. The principal activity of BWC is Babbarra Designs, a textile art business that gives the Indigenous women from the Maningrida region a medium to promote and preserve their cultural identity. While the artists have trained in a variety of textile mediums, most focus on handcrafted lino-tile and silk-screen printed fabric. Artists featured are Deborah Wurrkidj, Susan Marrawar and Elizabeth Kandabuma.

**Erub Erwer Meta**, also known as Darnley Island Arts Center, is located in one of the most remote communities in Australia that has a population of approximately 400 Erubam people. Erub Erwer Meta originated with a craft group called Ekkilau twenty years ago and is now dedicated to reviving traditional Erubam culture and sharing it with the world. The artists create ceramics, printmaking, works on paper, jewelry, textiles, and weaving dance ornaments. The jewelry and textiles arm of Erub is Ailan Pasin. Artists featured are Racy Oui-Pitt (textile design) and Erub Arts artists (jewelry).

**Injalak Arts and Crafts** officially opened in November 1989 but had small scale screen printing before then. Injalak is a non-profit community operation that supports over 200 artists from Gunbalanya and surrounding areas in painting, weaving, textile design, giving tours of rock art sites, and hunting and harvesting bush foods. Artists featured are Selina Nadjowh, Gabriel Maralngurra, Graham Badari, Don Namundja Nakidilinj, Eva Nganjmirra, Heather Nawirridj, Agnes Nalunjdjuk, Merrill Girrabel Ngalkalkdjam, Kunkanemkenh, Leonie Djorlom, Gwentyth Mangiru, Juliette Nganjmirra, and Aileen Ilakkilak.

**Merrepen Arts** opened in 1986 and many of the region's artists have been recognized at a national level. Today approximately twenty artists, mostly women, paint in traditional and contemporary mediums. They use a variety of materials and techniques in their work, including zinc plates or lino plates, colored ink and a press machine for etchings and prints: batik techniques with wax and silk painting for t-shirts, scarves and sarongs; paper-mâché for bowls and animal figures; screen printing for tea-towels; and weaving of merrepen and pandanus leaves for dilly bags, fishnets, baskets, and sun mats. Artists featured are Aaron McTaggart, Christina Yambeing, and Patricia Marrfurra.

## MAYRAH Julie Shaw

Julie Shaw is a proud Yuwaalaraay woman from Lightning Ridge. She has a Bachelor of Design in Fashion and Textiles from the University of Sydney and has over a decade of experience in the fashion industries of Sydney, Melbourne and London. She founded her fashion and lifestyle brand Mayrah to fulfill her dream of collaborating with key Aboriginal artists, designers, and entrepreneurs. Fusing fashion, culture and story, Mayrah draws upon traditional handicraft skills with a selection of embroidered, woven and crochet details using luxe natural fibers. Tonight's range is Radiate, the 2016 Resort Collection, which proudly includes accessories and the Burrul Warrambool print by Gawaa Miyay.

**Modeled by** Jada Stinnie, Ann Liu, Remy Enoch, Erin Burks, Katja Van Eersel, Meredith Wadsworth, Linda Meliani and Carmen Day.

## JETTY LOVE Grace Lillian Lee

Grace Lillian Lee is inspired by her hometown of Cairns and graduated from RMIT in Melbourne with honors in Fashion Design. She collaborates with artists in Darwin, Cairns and Darnley Island in the Torres Strait to create a gateway and platform for Indigenous Australian designs to be seen in a contemporary way. Her weaves, which she often makes in fresh summer colors, help evoke the feeling of a tropical lifestyle. Her designs have been showcased in Australia, New Zealand, and San Francisco.

**Modeled by** Megan McDaniels, Carmen Day, and Jada Stinnie.

## GAWAA MIYAY Lucy Simpson

Lucy Simpson is a Yuwaalaraay woman who draws inspiration from the freshwater country to which she and her family belong. She founded design studio Gaawaa Miyay (river daughter) Designs in 2009 and textiles label of the same name in 2011. After graduating from a Bachelor of Design in 2009 at UNSW Art & Design Lucy received both the Object Award in Design and the Longina Phillips Textiles Award, is currently Adjunct Associate Lecturer at University of New South Wales. In 2015 Lucy was also named an Honouree of Australian Design by the Australian Design Centre. Lucy's practice focuses on storytelling and narrative, sharing aspects of country culture and personal experience through contemporary Aboriginal art and design.

# ura student designs



**Designer:** Cindy Zhang, CLAS 2017, Financial Mathematics and Studio Arts

**Fabricator:** Cindy Zhang

**Model:** Cindy Zhang

**Artist:** Gabriel Maralngurra, Injalak Arts and Crafts



**Designer:** Brenna Darroch, CLAS 2015, History with French minor

**Fabricator:** Meredith Wadsworth, CLAS 2016, Media Studies with Entrepreneurship minor

**Model:** Meredith Wadsworth

**Artist:** Elizabeth Kandabuma, Babbarra Women's Centre



**Designer:** Mfon-Abasi Obong, MFA Student, Costume Design and Technology

**Fabricator:** Jacqueline O'Brien, CLAS 2016, Drama and French

**Model:** Katelyn Lynch, CLAS 2016, English

**Artist:** Christina Yambeing, Merrepen Arts



**Designer:** Olivia Tritschler, CLAS 2016, Global Developmental Studies

**Fabricator:** Olivia Tritschler

**Model:** Annie Temmink

**Artist:** Deborah Wurrkidj and Susan Marrawar, Babbarra Women's Centre



**Designer:** Marshall Pittman, CLAS 2017, Architecture

**Fabricator:** Marshall Pittman

**Model:** Elizabeth Schwarzschild, CLAS 2018, Mathematics and Women Gender Studies

**Artist:** Racy Oui-Pitt, Erub Erwer Meta



**Designer:** Ismaelia Dejoie, CLAS 2017, Architecture

**Fabricator:** Ismaelia Dejoie

**Model:** Ismaelia Dejoie

**Artist:** Aaron McTaggart, Merrepen Arts



**Designer:** Xinyang Li, CLAS 2017, Economics

**Fabricator:** Xinyang Li

**Model:** Jessie Zhang

**Artist:** Women of Injalak Arts and Crafts



**Designer:** Cindy Zhang, CLAS 2017, Financial Mathematics and Studio Art

**Fabricator:** Cindy Zhang

**Model:** Cindy Zhang

**Artist:** Women of Injalak Arts and Crafts