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Wayne Woods

Cherry Road

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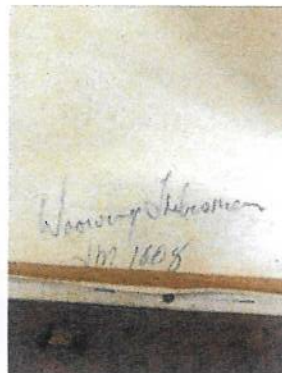
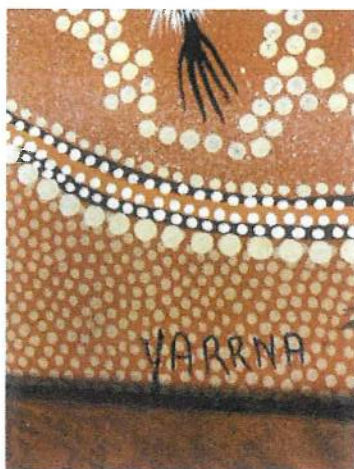
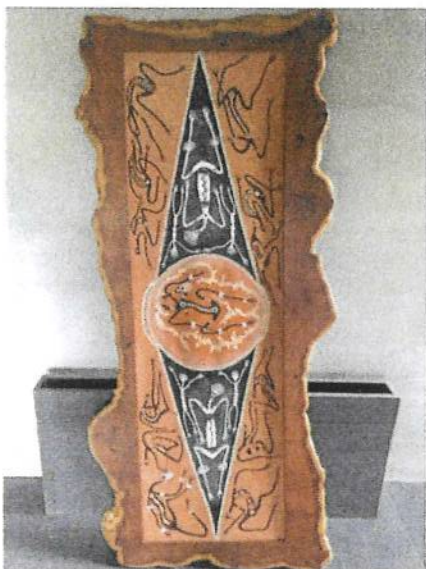
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20 March 2023

Wendy

Thank you for your request to prepare an online valuation report on a work by Joan Margaret Martin (1941-2008). You have supplied us with a digital image and the following information in relation to the work:



Title: Untitled

Medium: Pigment on canvas

Size: 148 x 44 cm

Signature: Signed "Yarrna"

Other information: I am in possession of 2 Aboriginal paintings and am trying to try establish authenticity. I purchased these 2 paintings approx. 30 years ago from an Australian trade/expo that was held in Tokyo. At the time of purchase I was led to believe them to be authentic, but I have no specialist knowledge & am now trying to see what we are holding. During the time when I purchased we were often making surf trips to Western Australia & I sent the paintings to a furniture dealer in WA (Peter Godden) who made the frames & mounted the paintings as you can see in the attached pictures. Both paintings have the writing YARRNA on the canvas & you can see some writing on the back which to me is barely legible with a number. Any clues you may be able to provide would be much appreciated. Any further information you may require or questions you may have please don't hesitate to ask. I am sending you details of one of the paintings here & other one has same markings vs Yarra on the canvas

Yarrna is Aboriginal artist Joan Margaret Martin (1941- 2008). Bruce Shaw recorded some 27 hours of conversation with Joan Martin, and the excerpts alone in the Indigenous Australia biography make for fascinating reading (see enclosure).

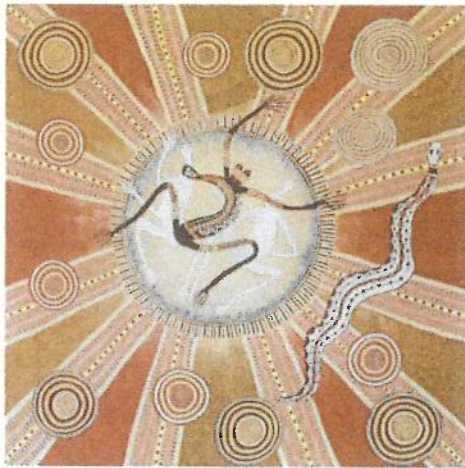
I was also able to locate the book written by Bruce Shaw "Joan Martin (Yarrna): A Widi Woman". You might well find it equally fascinating and wish to obtain a copy. Here is the link:

<https://www.amazon.com.au/Joan-Martin-Yaarna-Widi-woman-ebook/dp/B00GXDRYMU>

Perhaps surprisingly, Joan Martin's paintings have rarely appeared for sale on the secondary market. I checked both Australian Art Sales Digest and the international auction platform Invaluable.com.

Lawsons Auctioneers in Sydney offered "Dancing Mimis", 70.5 x 55.5 cm, in 1994, and it sold for \$525. McKenzies Auctioneers in Perth offered "Three Waterholes", 60 x 91 cm, in November 2012, which sold for \$100 on estimates of \$100-300. In March 2013, McKenzies offered another of her paintings, "Female Mimi", 90.5 x 90.5 cm, sold for \$420 (estimates \$100-300).

Yarrna, . Female Mimi



Yarrna, . Three Waterholes



From these results, it appears that recognition for Joan Martin even in her home state of Western Australia is not as high as it might be.

To me, the style of your painting is highly comparable to the two images of sold paintings at McKenzies in Perth in 2012 and 2013.

This is a large painting and the frame quite extraordinary, so I would expect that a reputable auctioneer in Perth would place estimates of \$300-\$500 on this painting.

However if considering selling, sending to Western Australia would not really be advisable, and offering on an online sales platform like Ebay or TradeMe would be more suitable, as works can be offered closer to a retail selling price to a private buyer, \$1,500 to \$2,000 perhaps.



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Disclaimer

We have not inspected the work physically. This report is based on the image and information supplied by the addressee of this letter. This valuation report is given solely for the benefit of the person to whom it is addressed.

Prices are subject to fluctuation. This report assesses market values and does not constitute an insurance appraisal. We do not accept any liability to any person who may rely upon it, including any liability to any person by reason of negligence.

Yours sincerely,



David Hulme
Banziger Hulme Fine Art Consultants
for Australian Art Auction Records

Enclosure



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Female Mimi

A\$420

Acrylic on canvas, 90.5 x 90.5 cm, Est: \$100-300, McKenzies Auctioneers, Fine Art, Perth, 19/03/2013, Lot No. 137

★ Bookmark This Lot



Three Waterholes

A\$100

Acrylic on canvas on board, 60 x 91 cm, Est: \$100-300, McKenzies Auctioneers, Paintings, Decorative Arts, Furniture, Perth, 19/11/2012, Lot No. 116

Verso: Inscribed Artist: Yarrna: Aboriginal Artist born in the Murchison area of Western Australia. 3 Waterholes. Middle one good one, always fresh. 2 Outer ones always dry up. Trowbridge Gallery card attached verso

★ Bookmark This Lot 🔍 Search for Matching Provenance



Dancing Mimis

A\$525

Acrylic on canvas board, 70.5 x 55.5 cm, Est: \$450-650, Lawsons, Aboriginal Art, Sydney, 13/09/1994, Lot No. 255

Framed

★ Bookmark This Lot 🔍 Search for Matching Provenance

<https://ia.anu.edu.au/biography/martin-joan-margaret-17807>



Martin, Joan Margaret (1941–)

PUBLICATION: *Joan Martin (Yarrna): A Widi Woman*, as told to Bruce Shaw, Canberra: Aboriginal Studies Press 2011

SEX: Female

BIRTH DATE: 2 March 1941

BIRTH PLACE: Morawa, Western Australia

FIRST LANGUAGE: English (and some Wadjari)

SIGNIFICANT LOCALITIES:

- **Mullewa:** Joan's mother Jane was born at Mullewa but was taken to the Moore River Settlement. Jane used to escape and return to Mullewa. (p.16) When she was an adult, Jane brought her children back to Mullewa for funerals, and it was there that Joan learnt about "tribal things". (p.14) Joan moved to Mullewa to live with her Uncle Victor when she split with her husband Lennie. (p.43)
- **Moore River Settlement:** Jane and her mother Amy were sent to the Moore River Settlement in the 1920s. Joan believes that this resettlement had an overwhelmingly negative effect on her mother and grandmother.
- **Morawa:** Joan's traditional land is a large area in the mid-west of Western Australia, surrounding the small town of Morawa. Joan described the Widi territory as arid and apparently uninhabitable.
- Joan grew up in Morawa, in a camp near the local hotel. (p.1) The family lived largely by hunting, and slept in beds made out of gum leaves and canvas. (p.19) Joan claims that, despite these harsh conditions, she did not feel deprived at Morawa.
- Joan moved back to Morawa after two years at a boarding school in Perth, before moving to Mount Magnet with her new husband.



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Autobiography remembers Indigenous artist

The woman who created the mosaic centrepiece in the Centre for Aboriginal Studies (CAS) at Curtin University has been remembered at the launch of an autobiography of her life.

The book, Joan Martin (Yarra): A Widi Woman, tells the story of artist Joan Martin, and was officially launched by Curtin's Associate Professor Kim Scott on Thursday 21 July at CAS.

Ms Martin was born in 1941 in the country town of Morawa, Western Australia. She was a proud Widi woman whose life was filled with great challenges including avoiding Native Welfare officers so she would not be removed from her family along with her very public battle with Homeswest in 1997 for the right to remain in her Karrinyup home. Ms Martin passed away on 6 October 2008, aged 67.


<https://www.daa0.org.au/bio/joan-martin/biography/>



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Joan Martin b. c.1940

Also known as Yarra, Kulyarrdoo
Artist (Ceramicist), Artist (Printmaker), Artist (Painter)

Yamatji artist who created the design for the mosaic on the floor of the main building at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at the Curtin University of Technology in Perth.

Biographical Data
b. c.1940 Murchison, WA

Biography
1 biography

Associates

Groups
1 group

Works
1 work

Exhibitions
2 exhibitions

Collections
1 collection

Recognitions

References
4 references

Biography (185 words)

Joan Martin, born c. 1940s, was a Yamatji artist from the Murchison region in the Western Australian wheatbelt. As a child Martin was given the name Kulyarrdoo, and as an artist later in life she went by the name of Yarra. Martin, who spent much of her adult life in Perth, created the painting upon which the design for the mosaic for the floor of the main building at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at the Curtin University of Technology in Perth was based. The Centre for Aboriginal Studies website states that "the painting depicts the coming together in celebration of different Aboriginal tribal groups from many parts of the country" (Accessed 21 May 2009). Martin also created paintings and painted ceramics based on Yamatji ancestral stories, examples of which are in the collection of the Curtin University of Technology Art Collection. In 1994 her work was shown in a solo exhibition, 'Yarra: paintings 1982-1994', at the Erica Underwood Gallery at the Curtin University of Technology.

Martin passed away in 2008.

This entry is a stub. You can help the DAAO by submitting a biography.

Writers: Fisher, Laura
Date written: 2009
Last updated: 2011

Tools

Edit

Version history

Updated Oct. 25, 2012
Created Jan. 1, 2009

Projects that include this item



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Look inside

Joan Martin (Yaarna): A Widi woman Kindle Edition

by Joan Martin (Author), Bruce Shaw (Author) Format: Kindle Edition

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\$38.44	\$52.21
Read with Our Free App	2 Used from \$37.11
	10 New from \$34.95

Joan Martin was born in the country town of Morawa, Western Australia, in 1941. She was a proud Widi woman whose traditional territory extended from Geraldton eastwards into the salt-lake area. Joan led an exciting and adventurous life, from life in the bush to school in Perth, and back again. But it was a life with great challenges, including efforts to avoid Native Welfare, so as not to be shipped off to a mission, and her later very public battle with Homeswest for the right to live in peace in her own home. Her legacy includes her work on native title, and her art.

Print length	Language	Sticky notes	Publication date	File size	Page Flip
193 pages	English	On Kindle Scribe	25 November 2013	3425 KB	Enabled

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