

# Marika's Cultural Identity

Banduk Marika is a Yolngu person. The Yolngu maintain their own strong social organisation, traditions and beliefs. The following chart shows how Marika's identity comes from her Yolngu heritage.

## PLACE

Central and eastern Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.

## PEOPLE

Banduk Marika comes from the Yolngu people.

## MOIETY

Banduk Marika belongs to the Dhuwa moiety.

A moiety is one of a pair of sub-groups of social and religious categories in Aboriginal society. In Yolngu culture, a person belongs to either the Dhuwa moiety or the Yirritja moiety.

## CLAN

Marika belongs to the Rirratjingu clan.

A clan is a group of Aboriginal people who share common descent. The Rirratjingu clan is a group of the Yolngu.

## CREATOR ANCESTORS

Marika's Creator Ancestors are called the Djang'kawu.

Creator Ancestors are spirit beings who created the world including the people, land, animals and plants. Their powers are believed to exist in the present day.

Banduk Marika's identity is linked to the peoples and lands to which she belongs. Through art, she communicates her connection to her respected Creator Ancestors—the Djang'kawu.

## A Story of the Creator Ancestors: The Djang'kawu

This painting by Marika's brother, Wandjuk Marika, is called *The Birth of the Djang'kawu Children at Yalangbara*.

It tells the story of the Djang'kawu at Yalangbara giving birth to the first Yolngu peoples, who are made up of two clans. Wandjuk shows his Rirratjingu clan in the painting. Like others of the Dhuwa moiety, Wandjuk's Creator Ancestors are the Djang'kawu.

As well as being a great artist, Wandjuk Marika was a highly respected clan leader and spokesperson for Yolngu people.



Wandjuk Marika painted *The Birth of the Djang'kawu Children at Yalangbara* in 1982, using ochres on bark.