



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MOWALJARLAI VISION AND VOICE

Legacy of a Bush Professor

19 April – 17 September 2016

A new exhibition at the University of Western Australia's Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery will explore the life and legacy of Ngarinyin Lawman, Elder and artist Bungal (David) Mowaljarlai, OAM (c.1925-1997).

A philosopher, artist, activist, storyteller, bush professor and statesman, Mowaljarlai was a major figure throughout the 20th century and a distinguished advocate for the land rights and culture of the Kimberley Wandjina peoples.

Opening on 23 April, *Mowaljarlai Vision and Voice* will draw on the personal and professional archives of David Mowaljarlai, recently donated to the university's Berndt Museum collection by two of his close friends and collaborators.

Mowaljarlai Vision and Voice curator and Berndt Museum archivist Eve Chaloupka worked closely with the collection donors to contextualise, arrange and describe the archive material that makes up much of the exhibition.

Ms Chaloupka said, "With determination and great force of will, David Mowaljarlai guided his people through complex colonial relationships and the momentous changes imposed upon them, including forced re-settlement hundreds of kilometres away from their Country to Mowanjum near Derby, in the 1950s.

“His enduring legacy is evident in his tireless commitment to the intergenerational transfer of knowledge among his own people, and the sharing of knowledge across cultures.”

Through taped conversations, artwork, photography, videos and more Mowaljarlai Visions and Voice will introduce Perth audiences to Mowaljarlai’s extensive cultural reach and major role in research in the western Kimberley.

Ms Chaloupka said, “Mowaljarlai is a good ancestor. He made sure that his work and knowledge would outlive him.

“The materials he left behind provide an insight into his influence and knowledge of complex knowledge systems imbued with wisdom, transmitted through eons past, and into the future. It will be a valued resource accessible to future generations of Ngarinyin people.

“This highly creative, layered and experiential exhibition will engender not only remembered qualities of Bungal David Mowaljarlai and Ngarinyin life more broadly, but also a heightened understanding of the extensive archival, object, paintings, photographic and audiovisual collections currently cared for at the Berndt Museum.”

**Mowaljarlai Vision and Voice runs from 23 April to 17 September at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.
Entry is free.**

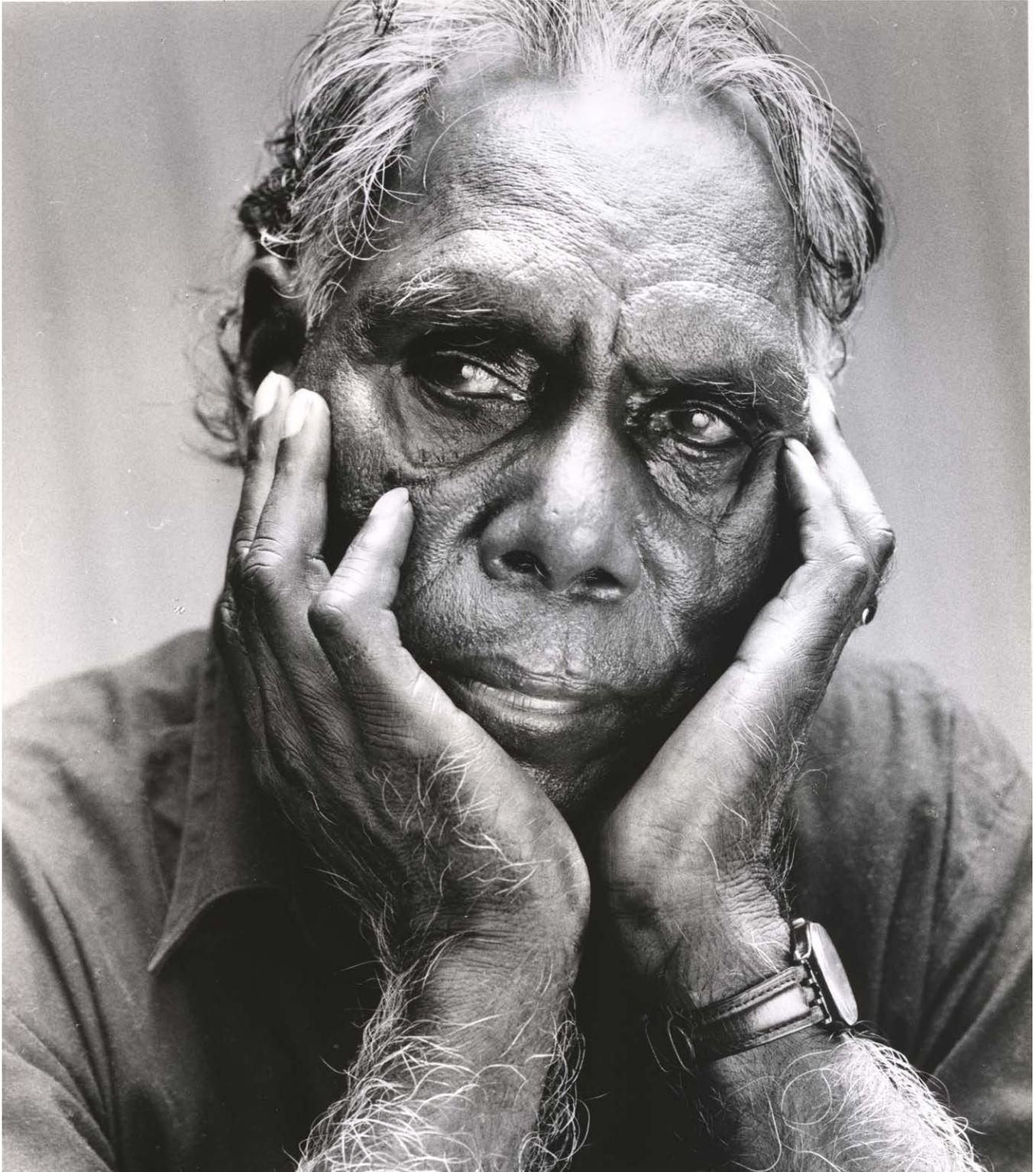
For media enquiries and interviews contact:

John McCarten on 0403 900 193 or john.mccarten@uwa.edu.au

The Cultural Precinct maintains an extensive library of professional-quality photography. To request an image, contact Clare McFarlane on 08 6488 7806 or clare.mcfarlane@uwa.edu.au

ADDITIONAL IMAGES MEDIA SUITE FOR MOWALJARLAI VISION AND VOICE

For high res images please contact Clare McFarlane on 08 6488 7806 or clare.mcfarlane@uwa.edu.au



Portrait photo of David Mowaljarlai taken in Sydney, Photo: Jutta Malnic, 1991

Image courtesy Jutta Malnic

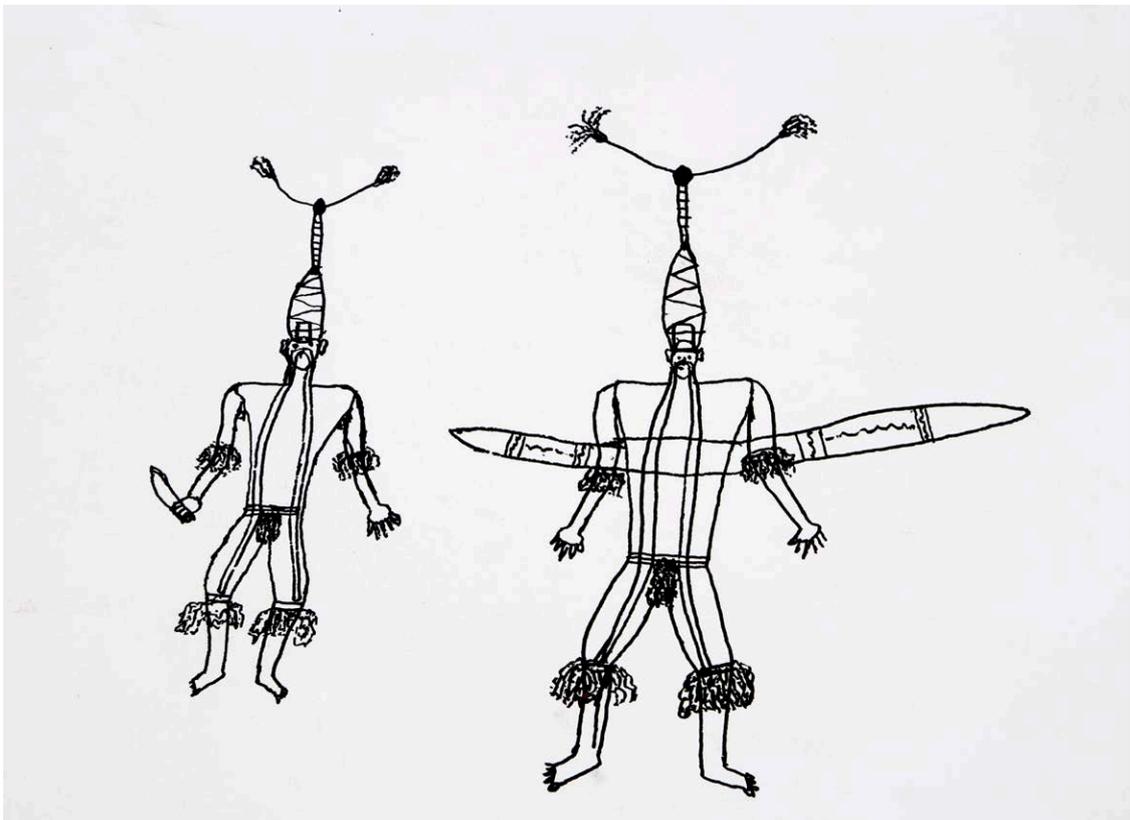
Mowaljarlai, David Banggal & Malnic, Jutta. 2001, *Yorro Yorro : everything standing up alive : spirit of the Kimberley* / David Mowaljarlai, Jutta Malnic, Magabala Books Broome, W.A



Bungal (David) Mowaljarlai, Mowaljarlai Archive, Berndt Museum, photographer unknown.



David Mowaljarlai at Wandjina site, Bush University 1996
Photo: Susanna Lobez, 1996
The estate of David Mowaljarlai, held at the Berndt Museum, UWA.



David Mowaljarlai, Ngarinyin people, Western Australia, *Brolga dance*, c. 1995, black ink on paper. The estate of David Mowaljarlai, held at the Berndt Museum, UWA. Intellectual and cultural copyright the artist and artist's family. Photo: Lyle Branson.



David Mowaljarlai (c.1925-1997), Ngarinyin people, Western Australia, *Djallala*, c 1995, acrylic with natural pigment on canvas. The estate of David Mowaljarlai, held at the Berndt Museum, UWA. Intellectual and cultural copyright the artist and artist's family. Photo: Lyle Branson.