

MICHAEL REID

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DHUKUMUL WANAMBI

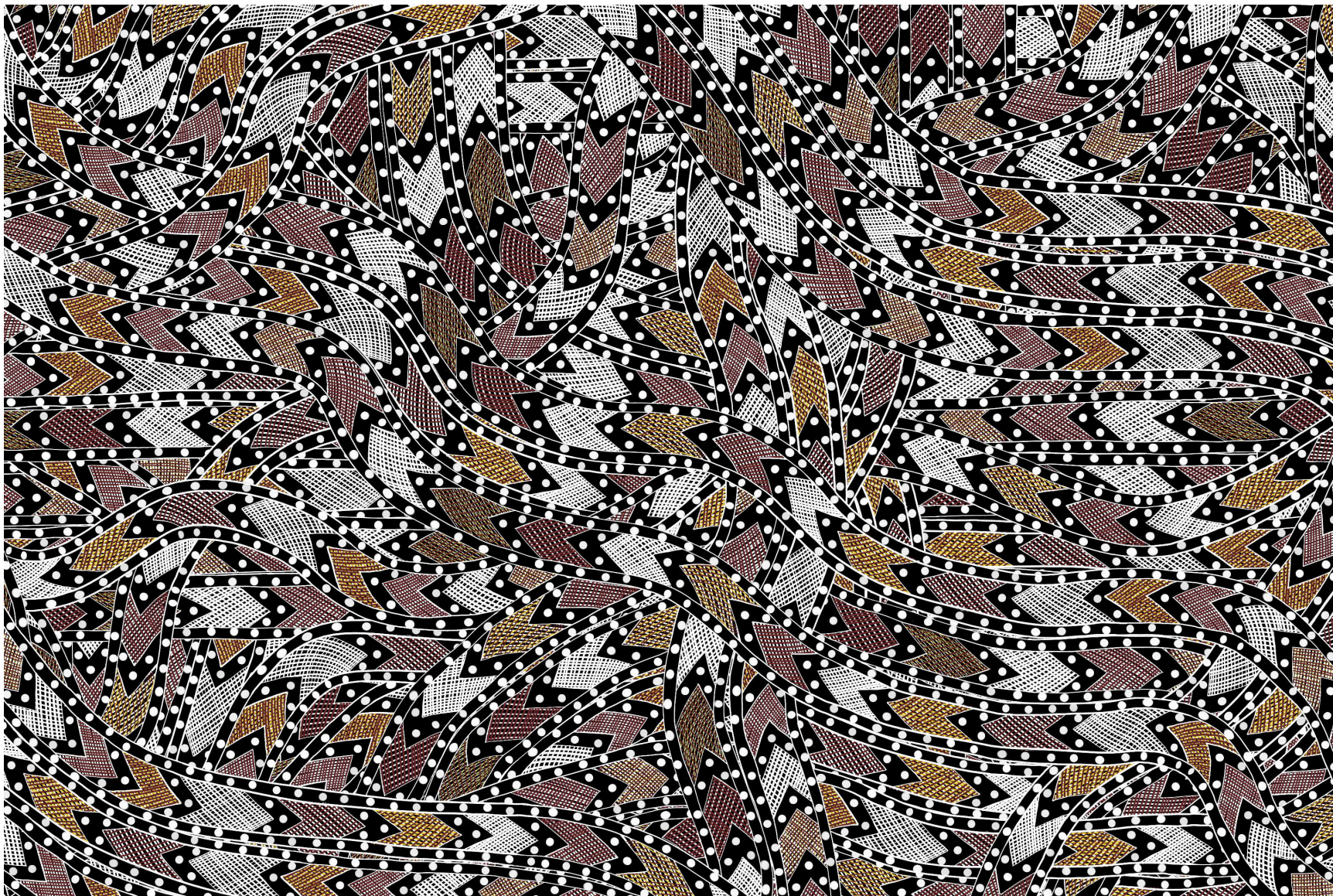
Yirrkala artist Dhukumul Wanambi brings ancestral songlines into motion with *Marrakulu Monuk* – an animated digital painting that translates her clan’s sacred saltwater miny’tji into luminous, swirling form. “Instead of painting Marrakulu Monuk onto bark with ochres, I wanted to make it digital while staying true to our traditions,” says Wanambi, who works as a filmmaker and digital artist with The Mulka Project.

Using a self-made digital brush that mimics the fine marwat of Yolŋu bark painting, Wanambi animates the infinite movement of her Marrakulu homeland’s waters at Gurka’wuy. “My father inspired me to make paintings like this,” she notes of the late artist and cultural leader Mr Wanambi. “He was the first to take miny’tji that are normally painted onto bark and burial poles, and make them move.”

By transposing cultural knowledge and a time-honoured visual language into the digital realm, Wanambi continues her father’s legacy of artistic innovation – a mantle shared by her sister, award-winning contemporary artist Gaypalani Wanambi – and embodies the experimental spirit of *Painting Now*.







Dhukumul Wanambi, *Marrakulu Monuk*, 2025, 4K, 6min 15secs (loops infinitely), edition of 8, \$5,000
View video: <https://vimeo.com/1073106503/26610b4c77?share=copy>

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