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## Gertie Deeral

**Born:** 12/08/1944  
**Clan:** Dingaal  
**Language:** Guugu Yimithirr  
**Totem:** Bunjarr (Owl) & Walmbaar (Stingray)



## Biography:

Gertie is an important leader and elder from the Dingaal clan and is a traditional owner of the country around Lizard Island.

She was born in Woorabinda in 1944. Her family were interned there during WW2. Gertie and her family moved back to Hope Vale when she was a young girl after the war ended.

Gertie's totems are Bunjarr (Owl) from her father's side and Walmbaar (Stingray) from her mother's side.

Gertie's husband recently passed away. They were passionate about passing down their cultural knowledge to the younger generations.

Gertie only recently began painting and now belongs to the *Gamba Gamba* group (senior women) at the art centre. Artworks by the Gamba draw on traditional Guugu Yimithirr Warra culture and contemporary and mission time histories. The women hold deep cultural knowledge of family kinship systems, sacred sites, esoteric characters and totems and are passionate about recording language and traditional stories to preserve and hand down to the younger generations.

## Group Exhibitions

- 2020** **Endeavour Voyage: The Untold Stories of Cook and the First Australians** - National Museum of Australia, Canberra ACT
- 2019** **ARTNOW FNQ 2019** - Cairns Art Gallery, Cairns QLD
- 2019** **Cairns Indigenous Art Fair 2019** - Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal, Cairns QLD
- 2017** **Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair 2017 - From Country to Couture** - Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin NT

## Themes

Binirrigu  
Captain Cook's 48 days in Wabalumbaal  
Hope Vale Mission History  
Walmbaar  
Woorabinda Settlement History  
Yuuru

## Mediums

Acrylic on Board  
Linocut  
Acrylic on Belgian Linen  
Natural Dye on Silk  
Digital Print on Cotton Rag