



**MATHAMAN MARIKA**

Rirratjinu clan, Dhuwa moiety  
about 1920–1970

Mathaman was a passionate advocate of Yolŋu traditions. He inherited the leadership of the Rirratjinu clan when his elder brother Mawalan passed away, and led the struggle against bauxite mining in the Yirrkala region. Mathaman became a close friend of the collector JA Davidson, his agent in the 1960s. In 1996 a painting of Mathaman's sold for a record price for a bark painting, at an auction in New York. His work has been included in many major exhibitions, including: *Australian Aboriginal Art*, an Art Gallery of New South Wales exhibition that toured the country in 1960–61; *Yirrkala Artists: Everywhen* at the Art Gallery of Western Australia in 2009; and *Yalangbara: Art of the Djang'kawu* at the National Museum of Australia in 2010–11.



**MAWALAN MARIKA**

Rirratjinu clan, Dhuwa moiety  
about 1908–1967

Mawalan was a great visionary who advocated the need to teach all Australians about Yolŋu culture, especially through art. A senior Rirratjinu clan leader, he negotiated the establishment of the Methodist mission at Yirrkala in 1935. Mawalan was the head of one of Australia's great art dynasties that includes his brother Mathaman and son Wandjuk. He was a signatory to the Aboriginal Bark Petitions (1963) and the leading Dhuwa painter of the Yirrkala Church Panels (1963). In the 1960s Mawalan was the first artist to teach women (his daughters) to paint sacred clan designs. His work has been shown in many exhibitions, including: *The Art of Arnhem Land*, Perth, in 1957; *Dreamings*, New York, in 1988; *Aratjara*, which toured Europe in 1993–94; and *Yalangbara: Art of the Djang'kawu* at the National Museum of Australia in 2010–11.