

MEDIA RELEASE: Latest Exhibition – new work by Marshall Bell

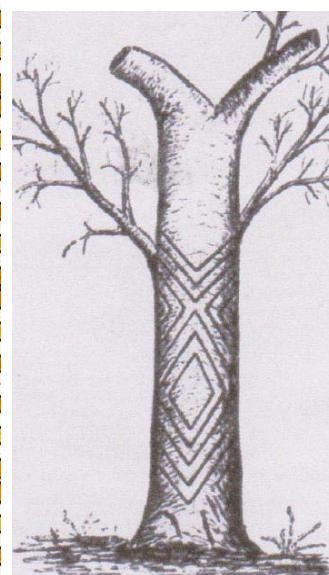
For Immediate release: MAY 2012



“you can do that, or what?”

Dates: 11 May ~ 2 June 2012

**Opening: Friday 11 May 2012,
6.30pm - 9.30pm**



MARSHALL BELL'S LATEST EXHIBITION
Links existing research on Gamilaroi art
with oral histories, demonstrating a
continuity of practice extending back to old Gamil, a time before time itself
began

Indigenous artist Marshall Bell continues his ongoing research into the politics, rights and misrepresentations in urban indigenous art practices with this significant new body of work. Bell proudly defies the urban arts trend towards politically correct avoidance of **using traditional indigenous motifs**, imagery and symbols.

In this exhibition, Bell's monumentally large canvases draw on imagery from **Denroglyphs** or **Tree Carvings** from a vast area of **Gamilaroi country**.

Meticulously researched during the artist's visits to the region, interviews with traditional owners and study of old texts, the artist present new knowledge and promotes a greater understanding of the

significance of these trees and their intended meanings.

A substantial essay detailing his research and justifications for the contemporary interpretations and use of this imagery and strict adherence to cultural protocols **accompanies Bell's latest works**.

More than this, **the paintings bring a new dignity to the histories and people they represent with their elegance, symmetry and stature**.

To be opened on 11 May at the Woolloomgabby Art Gallery by senior representative of the Gamilaroi nation, Paul Spearim and will include a traditional Gamilaroi welcome dance.

Please direct media enquiries to: Cassandra Lehman-Schultz, Gallery Manager

Image captions: Marshall Bell **Gamilaroi Creation Story**, 2012, 240 x 120cm, acrylic on canvas
Marshall Bell, **Big Mob Women Under the Sun**, 2012, 150 x 90cm, Acrylic on canvas
Marshall Bell, **Fishes and Net** 2012, 180 x 120cm, Acrylic on canvas
Detail: early documentation of Gamilaroi tree carving

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Woolloomgabby Art Gallery

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