showcasing the life & work of Michael Nelson Jagamara
‘A’ for Art

- Brisbane studios work-in-progress, 2014
- *The Messenger* (with Imants Tillers) 2014 acrylic on 64 canvasboards (No. 93187 - 93250) 240x240cm
- Collection: Parliament House Australia
‘B’ for Brisbane

- Blackbird Bar & Grill, Brisbane CBD, 2015
- Design comprises ‘curved’ section for travelling storm path with three crooked ‘vertical’ lightning strikes
- *Lightning Strikes ed.4/25 (large)* 2015 stainless steel 160x120x15cm
- Collection: Corporate
‘B’ for Bush Turkey

• Celebrated in ceremony
• Important traditional food source
• Design alludes to footprints in sand
• *Bush turkey site near Mt. Singleton* 2008 acrylic on canvas 150x120cm
‘C’ for Collaboration

- Collaborations with artists including Imants Tillers
- **Top**: *Metafisica Australe* 2017 acrylic on 72 canvasboards (No. 98450 - 98521) 225x285cm
- **Bottom (L to R)**: Imants Tillers, Michael Nelson Jagamara & Michael Eather
- Collection: QAGOMA
‘C’ for Collaboration

• Collaborations with artists including Rosella Namok
• Composition showing Namok’s ‘Stinging rain’ story as background with MNJ’s ‘rain & lightning’ as foreground
• *Desert Storm at Sea* 2017 acrylic on canvas 180x180cm
‘C’ for Campfire Group

• ‘Some Other Way’ MNJ and Campfire Group, exhibition catalogue cover, FireWorks Gallery, Ann St Fortitude Valley, 2000

• From 1997, the Campfire Studios in Brisbane enabled MNJ to begin experimenting with new compositions via drawings & mixed media on paper

• MNJ featured with Campfire Group in “All stock must go!” in Asia Pacific Triennial, QAG, 1996
‘D’ for Dots

- Design represents night stars in MNJ’s homeland, Papunya (240km NW of Alice Springs, NT)
- *Papunya stars (silver)* 2012 acrylic on canvas 60x60cm
- Collection: Private
‘E’ for Exhibition

- *Weather Patterns II* exhibition opening, FireWorks Gallery, Doggett St Newstead, 2017
- L to R: Rosella Namok, Michael Nelson Jagamara & Matthew Johnson
- *Big lightning* (15 panels) 2000 acrylic on linen 210x250cm
‘E’ for Expressionist Style

- From the Studio, exhibition catalogue cover, FireWorks Gallery, Stratton St Newstead, 2008
- Design consists of ‘U’shape representing old men & lightning ‘lines’
- Two old men 2003 acrylic on linen 175x238cm
- Collection: Private
‘F’ for Five Stories

- Stories are: Possum, Flying Ant, Rainbow Serpent, Lightning & Kangaroo
- Sotheby’s auction, London 2016, AUD$687,877 for *Five Stories* was highest price achieved for a living Indigenous artist
‘F’ for Forecourt

- Forecourt Mosaic Pavement, Parliament House Canberra, 2017
- Created 1986-1987 from a MNJ contemporary design of an ancient Western Desert *Possum and Wallaby Dreaming*
- 196m² mosaic comprising over 90,000 individual granite pieces selected specifically to match colours in MNJ’s painting
‘G’ for Graphic

• *Signature* 1998 ink on paper 56x76cm
‘H’ for Honey Ant

• *Big storm between two places*, exhibition catalogue cover, FireWorks Gallery, Doggett St Newstead, 2014

• Experimenting with hi-gloss, resin-based acrylics

• *Warumpi (Honey Ant Dreaming) moving between Pikilyi and Warnukurlparnta* 2013 acrylic on linen 203x300cm
‘I’ for In the beginning...

- MNJ with Michael Eather (Director) at the artist’s first solo FireWorks Gallery exhibition *Nine Dreamings from Mt. Singleton*, Ann St Fortitude Valley, 1997
‘J’ for Jagamara/Tjakamarra/Jakamara/Djakamara

- Signature and nine shots
  2014 acrylic on canvas
  122x122cm
‘K’ for Kangaroo

- Curated by Simon Wright for exhibition *Without the Story, the Painting is Nothing*, Brisbane City Gallery, 1999
- Design comprises distinct track made in the sand by the tail (‘central line’) with ‘outer shapes’ representing hind legs
- *Kangaroo tracks (triptych)* 1998 acrylic on canvas 90x183cm
- Collection: Private
‘L’ for Lolly Tree

• A favourite bush fruit, from the Conkerberry tree, which the artist remembers climbing as a child
• Design re-interprets linear sand-painting pattern
• *Lolly Tree Yam* 2008 acrylic on canvas 120x120cm
‘M’ for Mt Singleton

• Commissioned for 1997 exhibition *Nine Dreamings from Mt. Singleton*
• Stories are: Possum, Rain, Rainbow Serpent, Goanna, Women Dreaming, Kangaroo, Flying Ant, Lightning Storm & Meeting Place
• *Nine Dreamings at Mt. Singleton* 1997 acrylic on canvas 200x300cm
• Collection: Private
‘N’ for Narrative

• Since 2001, Michael Nelson Jamagara & Imants Tillers have collaborated on 24 artworks

• *The Call from Papunya* (with Imants Tillers) 2018 synthetic polymer paint, gouache on 64 canvasboards (No. 102696 - 102759) 203x284cm

• Collection: Tate Gallery, London
‘O’ for O

- Starting a *Yam* painting, FireWorks Gallery, Ann St Fortitude Valley, 1998
‘P’ for Possum

• The ‘E’ shape represents the possum paw print travelling over country

• MNJ’s possum story featured on his commissioned Sydney Opera House Bicentennial Mural, 1987

• *Possum love story* 2018 acrylic on canvas 100x140cm

• Collection: Private
‘P’ for Papunya

• Papunya, 2012
• Preparing for *The Loaded Gound* exhibition, Drill Hall, ANU, Canberra, 2012. MNJ covering Tillers’ painted boards with red earth
• *The Loaded Ground* Michael Nelson Jagamara (with Imants Tillers) 2012 acrylic, artists blood, red earth from Papunya on 36 canvasboards (No. 91742 - 91777) 152x241cm
‘Q’ for QAGOMA

• L to R: Michael Eather, Michael Nelson Jagamara & Bruce Johnson McLean, Curator, Indigenous Australian Art, QAGOMA, 2018

• *Lightning*, 1998, acrylic on linen, 150x170cm

• Collection: QAGOMA
‘R’ for Rainbow Serpent

- MNJ was born in 1946 in Pikiyili (Vaughn Springs, NT)
- The Rainbow Serpent is depicted as a travelling storm path near his birth place
- *Pikiyili Suite 2 (Rainbow Serpent in morning)* 2018 acrylic on canvas 70x180cm
- Collection: Private
‘S’ for Sculpture

• The *Lightning Strikes* sculpture series is distilled from the Warlpiri *Rain & Water Dreaming* narrative

• Limited- editions of varying sizes are created in polystyrene & 2-pac as well as in a range of metals – bronze, aluminum & steel
‘S’ for Stories

- Stories from top left clockwise: Ceremony, Stone Knife, Old Men, Storm, Bush Turkeys, Lightning, Meeting Place & Rain
- *Mt. Singleton stories* ed. of 99, 2009 archival ink on Hahnemuehle rag paper 88x109cm
‘T’ for Tattersalls

- Winner Tattersall’s Club Landscape Art Prize, 2006
- *Moving Storm* 2005 acrylic on canvas 120x150cm
- Collection: Tattersall’s Club Brisbane
‘U’ for University

- MNJ receiving an honorary doctorate with daughter Maree (centre) and Dr Vivien Johnson (left) at College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales, 2008 (Photo: Jane Hunter UNSW Media Office)
‘V’ for Vivid

- Design depicts the stone knife that Indigenous people make from flint & sharp stones
- Designs such as this can also relate to male initiation ceremonies
- *Stone knife ceremony* 2013, acrylic on canvas 90x90cm
‘W’ for Work in progress

- *Pikiyili Suite 7 (Yala)* 2018
  acrylic on canvas
  100x140cm
‘X’ for $x$ (the unknown)
‘Y’ for Yam/Yala

- Exhibited at *Without the Story, the Painting is Nothing*, Brisbane City Gallery, 1999
- First expressionist painting commissioned
- Yala ancestors travelled underground through huge areas of the Central Desert
- Design comprises lines radiating from the centre depicting the yam with its web-like root system
- *Wild Yam* 1998 acrylic on linen 135x135cm
- Collection: Private
‘Z’ for Zealous

- In 1989 it took seven days for MNJ to transform a BMW M3 art series car
- Ten years later... MNJ & Painted BMW Bike, 1999
- Collection: Private
Right: David Paulson & Michael Nelson Jagamara
*Michael Nelson Jagamara & Singing rain story* 2009
acrylic on linen 180x240cm