

## Professor Howard Morphy (Canberra)

Centre for Cross-Cultural Research  
The Australian National University (ANU)

Prof. Howard Morphy (BSc, M Phil London, PhD, ANU) has been Director of the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research (ANU) in Canberra since 1999. He is also honorary Curator of Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford and Adjunct Curator of the Kluge-Ruhe Research Centre, University of Virginia. Morphy is member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Fellow and member of Council of the Royal Anthropological Institute and member of the American Anthropological Association and the Association of Social Anthropologists.

### Main Research and Ongoing Projects

Howard Morphy's areas of research and interest entail the Anthropology of Art and Aesthetics, material culture, landscape, Visual Anthropology and ethnographic film, globalisation and museums as well as performance. He further engages in cross-cultural categories, aboriginal religion, kinship, human adaptation and the evolution of culture and the History of Anthropology. His involvement as curator of major exhibitions and the making of ethnographic films, reflects the importance he places on alternative forms of disseminating research results to use the potentialities of different media (including new media) and to engage with wider audiences.

Howard's main fieldwork has been with the Yolngu people of northeast Arnhem Land (Yirrkala) in 1974-76. He has also worked among the Ngalakan people of the Roper Valley, in 1980-81 and in 1998. In 1983 he spent 6 months in Darwin researching the public response to Aboriginal art. In 1988 he spent two months in the field in Central Arnhem Land (at Ramingining and Maningrida).

He is presently directing a joint archaeological-anthropological research project on resource use and social organisation and the recent history of the coastal peoples in Blue Mud Bay, east Arnhem Land, Northern Australia. His major current research project in this context is a biography of the Yolngu artist Narritjin Maymuru, which he intends to produce in print and multimedia form. Furthermore he continues to work in various areas of applied anthropology, in particular in relation to Indigenous rights in cultural property and land.

### Curriculum Vitae

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| since 2000 | Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences and of the Australian Academy of the Humanities<br>Adjunct Curator, Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection, University of Virginia   |
| 2001       | Member of the Equity and Diversity Advisory Group, ANU   |
| 2000       | Director of the CCR and of the newly created joint ANU/National Museum of Australia Centre for Research and Information Outreach (CRIO)<br>Introduced a graduate degree in Interdisciplinary Cross-Cultural Research, ANU<br>Member and Chairperson of the Advisory Board to the Wenner-Grenn Fund for Anthropological Research, New York<br>Member of the ARC advisory panel for the Humanities and the Creative Arts |
| 1993-97    | Trustee and then Chair of the Esperanza Fund for Anthropological Research (RAI), Manchester University.  |

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### Major Publications (esp. with theme-related focus)

#### Books

- 1998 *Aboriginal Art*. London: Phaidon
- 1991 *Ancestral Connections: Art and an Aboriginal Knowledge*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press
- 1984 *Journey to the Crocodile's Nest*. Canberra: Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

#### Co-editor

- 2000 *From the Frontier: Outback Letters to Baldwin Spencer*. Mulvaney, D.J. and A. Petch (co-eds.), St Leonards: Allen and Unwin
- 2000 *Culture Landscape and the Environment*. K. Flint (co-ed.), Oxford: Oxford University Press
- 1999 *Art from the Land: Dialogues with the Kluge-Ruhe Collection of Australian Aboriginal Art*. M. Smith Boles (co-ed.), Charlottesville: University of Virginia.
- 1997 *Human Adaptation*. G.A. Harrison (co-ed.), 2. ed., Oxford: Berg.
- In Place (Out of Time): Contemporary Art in Australia*. R. Coates (co-ed.), Oxford: Museum of Modern Art.
- 1997 *Rethinking Visual Anthropology*. Markus Banks (co-ed.), New Haven: Yale University Press.

#### Articles

- 2002 "Encountering Aborigines" in Sarah Thomas (ed.): *The Encounter, 1802: art of the Flinders and Baudin voyages*. Adelaide : Art Gallery of South Australia, pp. 148-163
- 2001 "Saltwater Country - paintings from Yirrkala" in: *Art and Australia* 38 (3): pp. 420-27
- 2001 with Frances Morphy (co-au.), "The spirit of the Plain's Kangaroo" in Bonyhady, Tim and Tom Griffiths (eds.): *Words for Country: landscape and language in Australia*. Sydney: University of NSW Press, pp. 102-23
- 2001 with Frances Morphy (co-au.), "Collecting knowledge, finding art" in Altman, Jon; Lendon, Nigel; and Frances and Howard Morphy: *Outside In: Research Engagements with Arnhem Land Art*. Canberra: ANU, The Drill Hall Gallery, pp. 22-30
- 2001d "Seeing Aboriginal art in the gallery" in: *Humanities Research* Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 37-5
- 1994 "The Interpretation of Ritual: Reflections from Film on Anthropological Practice", in: *Man*, New Series Vol. 29, No. 1, pp. 117-146