

Aboriginal Artist Collection

ARTIST Joy Nangala Brown

ARTWORK Ngapa Jukurrpa
(Water Dreaming) – Puyurru

SKU UR_JB01



ARTWORK STORY

This artwork represents a site to the west of Yuendumu known as Puyurru, made up of natural wells, 'mulju' (soakages) found in dry creek beds.

Traditional 'kirda' (owners) of this land are the Nangala/Nampijinpa women and Jangala/Jampijinpa men.

The Water Dreaming Jukurrpa tells us the story of two rainmakers. When these Jangala men sang, a huge storm unleashed, moving east to west across the land.

First the storm travelled from Warntungurru to the waterhole Warlura, beginning its travels with a 'pamapardu Jukurrpa' (Termite Dreaming).

When it arrived, a Warlura gecko named Yumariyumari exhaled a gust and pushed the storm over to Wilpiri and Lapurrukurra. From here, lightning bolts shot towards Wirnpa and Kanaralji.

Ngapa Jukurrpa used clouds to craft rises at Ngamangama, sticking sharp long clouds into the ground and baby clouds to shape hills. Today at Jukajuka, this hill still resides as a rocky rise.

The 'pamapardu Jukurrpa' kept moving inland to the Nyirripi community, found 160km west of Yuendumu.

The 'ngapa Jukurrpa' continued its travel to Mikanji, where the storm was collected by a 'kirrkarlanji' (brown falcon) and carried north. Arriving at Puyurru, the 'kirrkarlanji' uncovered a 'warrnayarra' (rainbow serpent) below the ground, who took this storm water and moved it along to make Jillyumpa, a big lake.



Beyond Puyurru, the 'ngapa Jukurrpa' continued its travels through Yalyarilalku, Mikilyparnta, Katalpi, Lungakardajarra, Jirawarnpa, Kamira, Jikaya and Yurrunjuku before heading further north to Gurindji country.

You'll find traditional iconography within modern Warlpiri artwork that represents this Jukurrpa (Dreaming). Fluid, long lines are used to shoe 'ngawarra' (flood waters), while small circles represent the river bed and 'mulji' (soakages), and small lines can be 'mangkurdu' (stratocumulus and cumulus clouds).

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