

Artist Collection



ARTIST Tess Napaljarri Ross

ARTWORK Wardapi Jukurrpa
(Goanna Dreaming) - Yarripurlangu

SKU UR_AB39

ARTWORK STORY

This painting represents the Wardapi Jukurrpa (goanna [Varanus gouldii] Dreaming) which comes from Yarripilangu, south-west of Yuendumu.

It tells the story of a group of karnta (Warlpiri women) that were sitting down in a circle when a man from Mount Theo of the Japangardi skin group, named Wamaru, came up to them.

He wanted to take a girl of the wrong skin, a Nungarrayi. He took the Nungarrayi woman, named Yurlkurinyi, and went up the hill where they made love.

Suddenly, the earth turned to Ngunjungunju (yellow and white ochre), and the man turned himself and all the 'karnta' (women) into 'wardapi' (goannas). The ochre is still found on top of the hill and is used today for love magic and ceremonial decoration.

This Jukurrpa belongs to the Napaljarri/Japaljarri and Nungarrayi/Jungarrayi subsections. It also belongs to people from Mount Theo of the Japanangka/Napanangka and Japangardi/Napangardi subsections.

In paintings of this Jukurrpa, the group of women is often represented by concentric circles and 'U' shapes typically are used to represent women. Concentric circles can also illustrate 'wardapi' holes and the droppings they leave while 'wardapi' tracks are usually represented by 'W' shapes.



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