

Aboriginal Artist Collection



ARTIST Steven Jupurrurla Nelson

ARTWORK Janganpa Jukurrpa
(Common Brush-tail Possum Dreaming)

SKU UR_TX_AB_11

SIZES 35x51" | 47x67" | 60x87"

ARTWORK STORY

Janganpa Jukurrpa (common brush-tail possum [Trichosurus vulpecula] Dreaming) travels all over Warlpiri country. 'Janganpa' are nocturnal animals that often nest in the hollows of white gum trees ('wapunungka'). The Janganpa Jukurrpa belongs to Jakamarra/Jupurrurla men and Nakamarra/Napurrurla women.

This story comes from a big hill called Mawurrji, west of Yuendumu and north of Pikilyi (Vaughan Springs). A group of 'janganpa' ancestors resided there. Every night they would go out in search of food. Their hunting trips took them to Wirlki and Wanapirdi, where they found 'pamapardu' (flying ants). They journeyed on to Ngarlkirdipini looking for water. A Nampijinpa woman was living at Mawurrji with her two daughters.

She gave her daughters in marriage to a Jupurrurla 'janganpa' but later decided to run away with them. The Jupurrurla angrily pursued the woman. He tracked them to Mawurrji where he killed them with a stone axe. Their bodies are now rocks at this place. Warlpiri people perform a young men's initiation ceremony, which involves the Janganpa Jukurrpa.

In Warlpiri paintings traditional iconography is used to represent this Jukurrpa. 'Janganpa' tracks are often represented as 'E' shaped figures and concentric circles are used to depict the trees in which the 'janganpa' live, and also the sites at Mawurrji.

Steven Nelson has developed his own characteristic style in the depiction of the Jukurrpa, he is not using traditional iconography, his abstract representation of his dreaming is an exploration of the relationship of colour and form to depict the landscape and the story associated to his Jukurrpa.



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