

# Aboriginal Artist Collection



**ARTIST** Judith Nungarrayi Martin

**ARTWORK** Janganpa Jukurrpa II  
(Brush-tail Possum Dreaming)- Mawurriji

**SKU** UR\_AB35

## 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 story that this artwork is based on comes from a big hill called Mawurriji, west of Yuendumu and north of Pikilyi (Vaughan Springs), where a group of 'janganpa' ancestors resided.

Every night, they would go out in search of food. Their hunting trips took them to Wirliki and Wanapirdi, where they found 'pamapardu' (flying ants). They then journeyed towards Ngarlkirdipini looking for water.

A Nampijinpa woman was living at Mawurriji with her two daughters. She gave her daughters in marriage to a Jupurrurla 'janganpa', but later decided to run away with them, causing the Jupurrurla to then pursue them angrily. He tracked them to Mawurriji 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. The Janganpa Jukurrpa belongs to Jakamarra/Jupurrurla men and Nakamarra/Napurrurla women.

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, as well as the sites at Mawurriji.



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