

Artist Collection



ARTIST Mary Napangardi Butcher

ARTWORK Pikilyi Jukurrpa Mustard
(Vaughan Springs Dreaming)

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ARTWORK STORY

Pikilyi is a large and important waterhole and natural spring near Mount Doreen station. Pikilyi Jukurrpa (Vaughan Springs Dreaming) tells a story of the home of two rainbow serpents, ancestral heroes who lived together as man and wife.

The woman 'rainbow serpent' was of the Napanangka skin group, while the man was a Japangardi. This was considered a taboo relationship and contrary to Warlpiri religious law.

Women of the Napanangka and Napangardi subsection sat by the two serpents, picking lice off them. For this service, the two serpents allowed the women to take water from the springs at Pikilyi.

This was because the serpents were the 'kirda', or ceremonial owners, for that country.

The spirits of these two rainbow serpents are still at Pikilyi today. This Dreaming belongs to the women and men of the Japanangka/Napanangka and Japangardi/Napangardi skin groups.



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