

Artist Collection



ARTIST Margaret Napangardi Lewis

ARTWORK Mina Mina Jukurrpa IX
(Mina Mina Dreaming)

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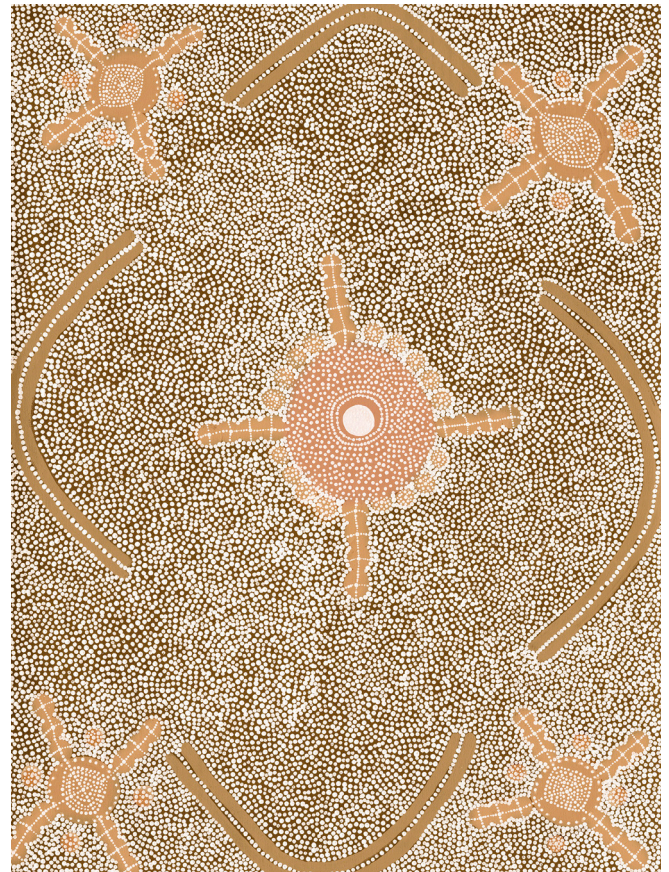
ARTWORK STORY

Mina Mina is an extremely important ceremonial site for Napangardi and Napanangka women that is located approximately 600kms west of Yuendumu, just east of Lake Mackay and the WA border. The area has a 'marluri' (salt lake or claypan) that is usually dry, without water. There are also a number of 'mulju' (soakages), sandhills, and a large stand of 'kurrkara' (desert oaks [Allocasuarina decaisneana]). The Mina Mina Jukurrpa is an important source of Warlpiri ritual knowledge and social organization, particularly relating to the different roles performed by men and women.

The 'kirda' (owners) of this country are Napangardi / Napanangka women and Japangardi / Japanangka men, who can depict portions of the Mina Mina Jukurrpa in their paintings. There are a number of different components of the Mina Mina Jukurrpa; artists usually choose to depict one particular aspect. These can include 'karnta' (women), 'karlangu' (digging sticks), 'majardi' (hairstring skirts / tassels), 'ngalyipi' (snakevine [Tinospora smilacina]), 'jintiparnta' (desert truffle[Elderia arenivaga]), and 'kurrkara' (desert oak[Allocasuarina decaisneana]).

The Mina Mina Jukurrpa tells the story of a group of ancestral 'karnta' (women) who traveled from west to east. In the Dreamtime, these ancestral women danced at Mina Mina and 'karlangu' (digging sticks rose up out of the ground. They collected these digging sticks and started travelling to the east. They carried their digging sticks over their shoulders and they were adorned with 'majardi' (hairstring belts), white feathers, and necklaces made from 'yimirnti' (bean tree[Erythrina vespertilio]) seeds. They continuously anointed themselves with 'minyira' (shiny fat) to increase their ritual powers as they went along. As the women travelled, they were followed by a 'yinkardakurdaku' (spotted nightjar[Eurostopodus argus]) from the Jakamarra subsection. The bird would call out and then hide in the bushes behind them as they travelled.

When the women danced at Mina Mina, they created a large dust cloud that swept up the 'walyankarna' (snake ancestors).



The 'walyankarna' had previously transformed themselves from witchetty grubs into snakes at Kunajarrayi (Mount Nicker, 200km southwest of Yuendumu), and they had stopped at Mina Mina to watch the women dance. This dust cloud blew the 'walyankarna' further north to Yaturlyuyaturlu (near the Granites gold mine). In this way, the 'karnta Jukurrpa' (women's Dreaming) and 'ngarkirdi Jukurrpa' (witchetty grub Dreaming) intersect. This allowed the ancestral women to observe the witchetty grubs and learn how to best locate and cook them, which are skills that Warlpiri women still use today.

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