

Aboriginal Artist Collection

ARTIST Shanna Napanangka Williams

ARTWORK Napaljarri-warnu Jukurrpa
(Seven Sisters Dreaming)

SKU UR_SW01



ARTWORK STORY

This artwork shares the ancestral story of seven Napaljarri sisters. These sisters can be found as a cluster of stars in the sky, known as the Pleiades, or within the constellation of Taurus.

From the Napaljarri skin group, the Pleiades are seven women often painted in scenes alongside the 'wardilyka' (or bush turkey), a Jampijinpa man symbolised in the cluster of stars known as Orion's Belt, and said to be in love with the seven sisters.

Meanwhile, the morning star known as Jukurra-jukurra is said to feel the same. Jukurrpa paintings often show him pursuing the Napaljarri sisters in their travels across the evening sky.

In a last-ditch effort to free themselves from the attentions of these men, in a blaze of flame, the seven sisters turn themselves into stars, rising to the safety of the heavens.

Elements of this Napaljarri-warnu dreamtime are often highlighted with the secretive men's sacred ceremonies.

You'll find traditional iconography within modern Warlpiri artwork that represents the Jukurrpa and places connected to the Jukurrpa, as well as Yantarlarangi, a female star also known as Venus (the Evening Star). The story goes that after stealing the night from her, Yantarlarangi gives chase to the seven sisters.

Japaljarri/Jungarrayi men and Napaljarri/Nungarrayi women are the guardians of Napaljarri-warnu Jukurrpa.

