



ARTIST
RUSSELLINA
PURUNTATAMERI

TITLE
JAPARRA
NATURAL OCHRE

REGION
TIWI ISLANDS



Russellina Puruntatameri, a proud Tiwi woman from the Tiwi Islands which is 80kms north of Darwin. Russellina developed her artistic skills from her family back home, where she grew up at Pirlangimpi Garden point, at the Munupi Arts Centre, by watching and listening to their stories.

In the Tiwi ancestral memory, Japarra is Purukaparli's deceitful brother. He and his sister-in-law Bima become lovers. During one of their bush rendezvous Bima and Purukaparli's baby son dies of heatstroke, bringing mortality to the world.

Following the tragic discovery of his son's death, Purukaparli fights his brother with the rage of grief, striking him with spears and throwing sticks. Japarra is critically injured and flies up to become the moon, always reminding Tiwi of the life and death cycle from full moon to no moon to new moon.