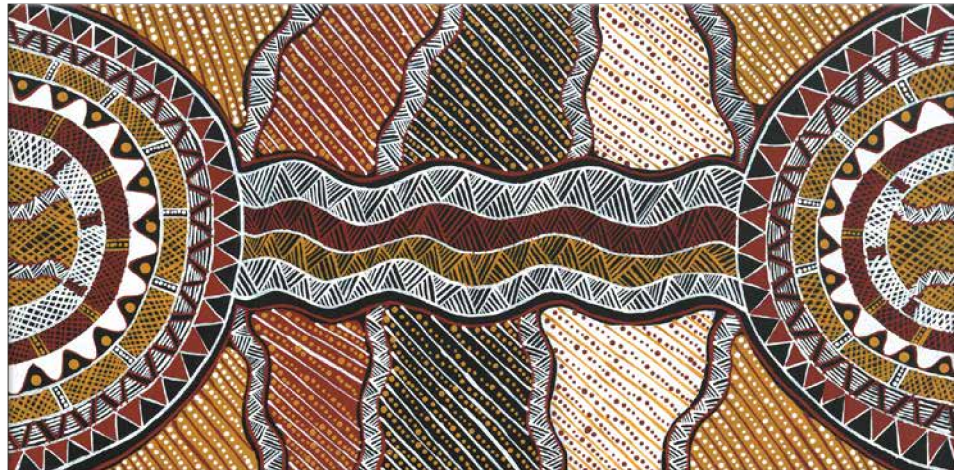




ARTIST
RUSSELLINA
PURUNTATAMERI

TITLE
KULAMA CEREMONY

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.

The Kulama Ceremony consists of 3 days and 3 nights of ritual body paintings, singing and dancing happening towards the end of the wet season when a ring appears around the moon. It is an annual celebration of life and an important initiation ritual for young men.

Circular shapes in contemporary Tiwi artwork often represent the ceremonial dancing ground. It is an important ceremony for the Tiwi community as it symbolises good health, hunting, initiation and marriage.