

Marcia Reid Nangala

Title: Ancestral Country at Tjukurla
Medium: acrylic on linen
Size: 60 x 22 cm
Cat #: Jap 013293
Year: 2016



Story

In this painting Marcia Reid Nangala has painted elements of her country around Tjukurla. Tjukurla is located in the *tali* (sandhill) country on the edge of Lake Hopkins, halfway between Warakurna community in Western Australia and Kintore (Walungurru) community in the Northern Territory. The residents here are mostly Ngaanyatjarra speaking people.

The iconography used by Western Desert artists including Pintupi artists is widely understood by all language groups across the desert. In general, the concentric circles used here represent sacred women's sites, such as rockholes and other Creation sites from the Dreaming. The U shaped designs near the rockholes depict the women sitting there, painted up for ceremony. The paintings can also represent women moving through the country, from rockhole to rockhole, in between the *tali* (sandhills) and *puli* (desert hills and rocky outcrops) performing ceremonies along the way. Sometimes white dotted semi-circles are used to represent women's ceremonies. As in most Australian Indigenous art, the artwork is painted from an aerial perspective.

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