



# Wangka Walytja

Image courtesy of Wangka Walytja  
Original drawing by Abraham Stockman,  
Tjilkamatanya. Still for animation, coloured  
by Claudette Stockman, 2023.

## Artback NT

Artback NT engages audiences to experience the diverse stories, compelling rhythms, and vibrant energy of regional and remote Northern Australia. We champion and support the diverse artists and communities of our region, fostering creativity, cultural expression, and connection to audiences. Our Visual Arts Program collaborates with NT artists, curators, organisations, and communities to co-create and co-present touring exhibition to remote, regional, and metropolitan galleries, sharing quality visual arts experiences with diverse audiences across Australia.



# Exhibition Description

Wangka Walytja celebrates, explores, and expands the illustrated literature of Papunya and its creators. This immersive exhibition explores story-making and storytelling during a remarkable time of artistic and educational creativity at Papunya, and its continuing tradition. As the new NT Bilingual Education Program was established, Pintupi-Luritja illustrators, authors, literacy workers and elders enthusiastically responded to the call to 'flood the place with literature.' They harnessed the resources of the Papunya Literature Production Centre (LPC) to tell their stories for their children and community in their own language and images. Between 1978 and 1990 the LPC published hundreds of intricately illustrated books. These, along with editions of the Community newsletter Tjakulpa, photographs, original drawings and manuscripts form the nucleus of the exhibition. Around it, a new generation of Papunya creatives have responded with new works, using digital media. These harness audio and audio-visual technologies, in collaboration with animators and videographers, to bring new life to storytelling traditions.

Wangka Walytja shows these diverse productions and expressions of Pintupi-Luritja knowledge and storytelling, through original books, framed and mounted original drawings from the books, historic and contemporary photographs, digital responses, including animations and audio stories.

The works are structured thematically in three parts: People and literature production, Life at Papunya and Stories and Story-telling.

Image courtesy of Papunya Literature Production Centre Collection, Papunya School, Courtesy Libraries and Archives NT. Rumiya kamu Lungkata coverpage, illustrated by Abraham Stockman

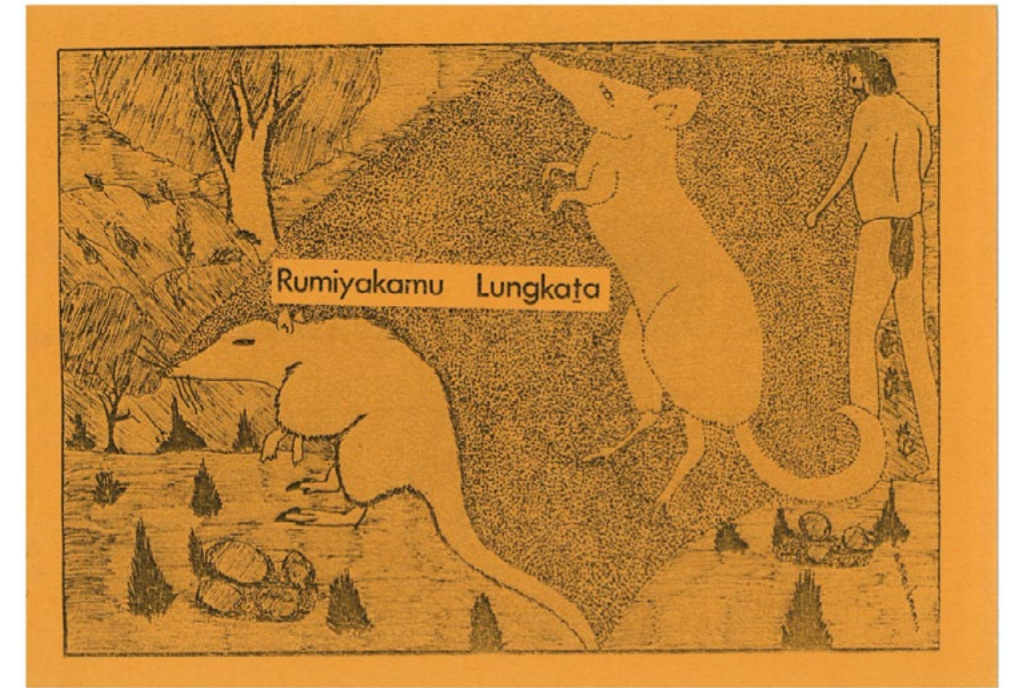


Image courtesy of Papunya Literature Production Centre Collection, Papunya School, Courtesy Libraries and Archives NT. Rodeo, illustrated by Kevn Morris



Image courtesy of Papunya Literature Production Centre Collection, Papunya School, Courtesy Libraries and Archives NT. Johnny Warangula teaching boys at Papunya, 1988





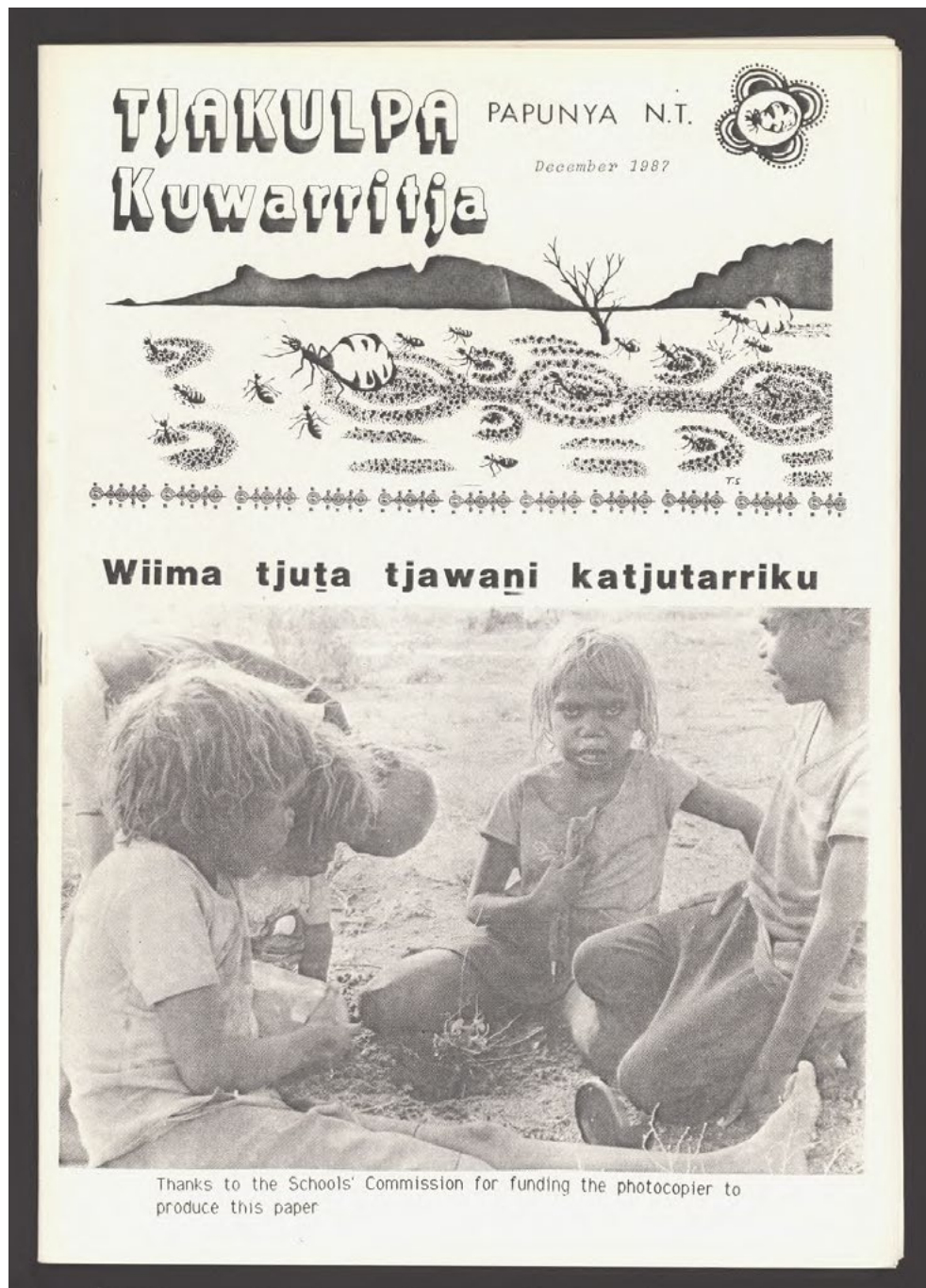


Image courtesy of Papunya Literature Production Centre Collection, Papunya School, Courtesy Libraries and Archives NT. Cover, Tjakulpa Kuwarritja, December 1987

## Curatorial Rationale

The exhibition shares an important national story of creativity, language and education befitting the UN Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032).

The name Papunya is synonymous with the emergence of contemporary Indigenous art in Australia in the early 1970s. Less well known but as revolutionary is the achievement of the founding artists' children, in translating an ancient storytelling tradition into the media of alphabetic literacy and representational imagery. The phrase 'Wangka Walytja,' chosen for the project by one of its key protagonists, has multiple senses, including 'one's own language', 'one's own story', 'one's own family'. These senses convey the deep purpose behind the creation of these works: to share and continue knowledge and tradition in the verbal and visual arts. Or to keep knowledge, culture, and language strong.

Wangka Walytja pulls together three generations of artistic production in Papunya – the old storytellers, among them, founding artists in the Papunya art movement, their children who grew up to be the first authors and illustrators, and the children who read their books in Papunya classrooms, who have now transformed them into new, digital media. The stories and their telling by each generation are adapted and shown across modalities – from oral storytelling and traditional design to illustrated print publication to multimedia. These creative acts reflect a diversity in contemporary Australian artistic sensibility and framing that rarely occurs in remote Indigenous arts. Instead of being the source and subject of representations for an outsider audience located outside the place of artmaking, this exhibition brings to a broad audience the opportunity to experience and appreciate works made by and for Pintupi-Luritja people on their own Country and in their own language.



Image courtesy of Papunya Literature Production Centre Collection, Papunya School, Courtesy Libraries and Archives NT. Murphy Roberts reading to Papunya School students, 1986



# Participating Artists

Dennis Tjakamarra Nelson, the most prolific of the LPC illustrators, and author, leading Tjupi Arts painter reflects on the stories he created:

"Yara iriritja, ngaatja yara iriritja Ilipilitjarra, yirupulayini para ankupayi katuwana tjana nyangu. Anangu Tjuta ngurangka nyinanyi. Anangu tjutangku tjana ngurrpa nyanganyi palulangurru tjana ngulurringu. Tjana kulinu mamuku yirupulayni. Tjana kumpira nyananyi anta palulangurru kamalatjarra tjatalpi mayananyi, whitefellas and maru Anangu, waltja tjananya nyangu ngurrangka nyinaningka. Mirrangu alajti tjananya... kaamatuwa, eyyy!.. tjana kulinu wangka walytja".

"These old stories, it was good we used to make them at the school, we collected and printed them alongside pictures for people to see.

That old one, little book we made they wrote it down this one old story, this one's an old story about Ilpili and an aeroplane flying around in the sky. This mob saw it, all of these Anangu in their homeland. They didn't know what it was they were seeing and became frightened. They thought the aeroplane was a monster, they hid from it. It was after that people came on camels. White fellas and black fellas, their family. They saw them all staying in their homeland. They called out and the people heard them, their family speaking their language".

Storytellers, illustrators, authors, translators, and digital producers with works in this exhibition include Johnny Warangula, Timmy Jugadai, Obed Raggett, Dennis Nelson, Thomas Stevens, Charlotte Phillipus, Douglas Multa, Abraham Stockman, Priscilla Brown, Sabrina Ferguson, Kevin Morris, Linda Anderson, Claudette Stockman, Cheryl Stockman.

Image courtesy of Wangka Walytja. Original drawing by Dennis Nelson, Nungarrayilu kanyini kuru tala payimilanytjaku. Still for animation, coloured by Sabien Bennett, 2024.



Image courtesy of Papunya Literature Production Centre Collection, Papunya School, Courtesy Libraries and Archives NT. Papunya teachers Martha MacDonald, Pilyari Napurrlua, Narlie Nakkamarra, 1987.





# Project Information

Wangka Walytja brings together the illustrations, stories, both written and oral, and new digital works from three generations of artists.

## Curators

Charlottle Phillipus  
Vivien Johnson  
Samantha Disbray

## Other Collaborators

Paloma Pizarro – Tjupi Arts  
Kathrin Kaiser – University of Queensland, digital designer  
Jake Duczynski (Studio Gillay) and Pin Rada - Videography.





# Audience Relevance

The exhibition is appealing to a general audience. It is visually compelling. It shares insights into traditional and contemporary story-making and storytelling and the creation of this remarkable illustrated literature. In turn it connects to and expands our understanding of the world-famous Western Desert art movement, the roots of which are entwined with the illustrated literature.

While the exhibition shows the creation of art and literature in a Central Australian language and location, and it has resonances throughout Australia, as public attention has turned to the loss and reclamation of Indigenous languages, which take an ever more prominent place in schools and in public institutions across the country.

Reaching a wide range of interests, the exhibition shows diverse works made by intergenerational creators for intergenerational audiences.





# Exhibition Details

Touring available for tour from early 2025.

## Specifications

**Exhibition Running Metres** – approx. 80mts.

**Objects** – approx. 25 floor-based objects/collections of objects (9 possible to display on shelves), 6 x wall pieces with installation templates

**Audio Visual** – 1 projector, 1 monitor, 2 e-tablets, 2 touchscreen display units with headsets (everything supplied)

**Audio Description** – key objects and works Audio Described TBC

**Labelling** – exhibition identifier (vinyl signage file), artwork labels and captions (design files)

**Support materials** Venue Pack Comprehensive Installation Manual Comprehensive Communications Kit

### Tech requirements/exhibition furniture provided

Vitrine (manuscripts)

Mountings

Projector, screen

2 x Cabinet for touch screens (dimensions TBC)

**Crate sizes** TBC

Tape No. PL14-89

Side one

50 Snowy Titi  
maama transcript by Charlotte Phillipus

Kuka wakanytja nganampa jutangku Kuka  
malu Paluru wakalpayi Paluru ngalyakatipayi ①  
ngurrakutu yuti mantarrauyangkku nikitinkku.  
Maama<sup>ma</sup> tjana tjiti nganannya katipayi kuka  
Kuka panya payinytjaku kala nganana payilpayi  
tjana wakalpayi palkarra nguru ngarata kulatangka  
Nganana payira nyakupayi maamalu tjana  
wakanyangka wakara tjana yutipayi ②  
nyayipi wiyangkku panya mirru kantingka.  
Tjana tjuni yalaningi tjuni yalaningi yutira  
katirra ngurrangka pawuringi tjana munu ③  
pawura tjana katara wipu katara tjana piyuku  
mirrungka tjana kuka kuntaninge mirrungka  
Kuka mirrungka kuntaninge wiyangkku nyayipi  
wiyangkku tjana mirrungka kuntaninge nganannya  
kuntara kuka kuntara ungangi maamalu  
nikitinkku. Palunya nganana kantingkat nyanga  
palunya kulinytja wiyal nganana nyinangi.  
Tjana walpangka ankupayi ankuta nganannya  
wantikatirra kuka wakalpayi kulatangka  
wakara ngalyakatipayi ngurrakutu  
ngurrangkaya tjana pawalpayi ngalyakatirra  
nganana tjiti nyinanangka kapingka. ④  
nyakupayi nganana maamalu tjana kuka  
katinyi maamalu kutalipaka alatji kala  
nganana kuka ngakupayi. Pala palunya kutju  
wiyangka katalyangkku tjana kapi tjikinnyangka  
tjana wakalpayi kutjupayara untjurrara  
kulatangka wakalpayi kala wiyangka tjana ⑤  
panya wal kanyupayi wakalpi tjunkupayi  
kapingka. kapingka tjana ngalyayankula  
katalyangkku tjikira uwantara lupayi.



# Images



Image courtesy of Vivien Johnson.  
Dennis Nelson, new drawing for Ngayulu kulinu mamu, 2022



Image courtesy of Vivien Johnson.  
Dennis Nelson, new drawing for 'The man who painted all day' comic strip, 2022



# Images

## Housing



All the housing workers, we would like the houses to be kept good. It's good to look after houses, to clean them up, but every time the housing workers visit they see lots of rubbish that people have made. We would like you to not make a lot of rubbish, but to keep your houses clean, so as to avoid getting sick. If you're sitting in a house, if you're one of the mob with a house, then you should keep it clean. And it's good to have a lawn too. The housing fellows and the whitefella would like to see that.

We are building two new houses at the moment. When people move into them, they should look after them and not break the windows.

Dickle  
Brown



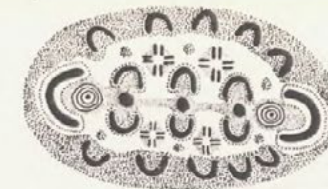
## Awutjingiku Yara

Nganana yunytjurringanyi  
awutjingi tjutangu  
waarrkana tjutangu palya  
waaia kanyinytjaku.  
Palyakunyu kanyinytjaku  
waaia paltjirala  
kanyinytjaku ipiritayimi  
awutjingi tjutangu  
nyanganyi yulpata waaia  
yulpata yanangungku  
palyantjala. Nganana  
yunytjurringanyi yulpata  
wiya palyanytjaku, kiliina  
kanyinytjaku  
miintangkamarratarra.  
Nyurrangarri nyinanyi  
waaangka waalangurrara  
tjutangu kiliina  
kanyinytjaku, palya nyurra  
palyani luwanatarra.  
Nyanganyi awutjingingu  
palya alatji yunytjurringanyi  
walypala nganangatju  
awutjingiku.

Waaia nyuwanala palyani  
kuwarri kutjarra. Yanangu  
tjarrpanyi wala playa  
kanyinytjaku wiya wintawu  
kiltjuntankunytjaku palya  
kanyintjaku. Waaia palya  
yanangungku kanyinytjaku  
luwanatarra palyanytjaku.  
Palya walypala  
yunytjurringanyi alatjiku  
waaia kanyinytjaku palya  
ngurra palya.

Tiki Purawanulu watjanutja

## Hospital



## Yutjupitala

Warringkamarra yabangu tjutangu wantungku panya tjuutura nyinanytjaku tjuutura ngarrinytjaku Tjaampangka tjarrpanytjaku warringkamarra warutarra kutjara nyinanytjaku. Tjilpiku wulkumanuku waru puntu manytjinytjaku miintarripayangka tjana wantujarra tjanampa manytjinytjaku nyuwana tjaampa tjanampa manytjinytjaku, tjilpiku wulkumanukutarra miintangkamarra. Yanangu tjuta panya nyurra kuya wala tjana miinta yurkalypatjarra nyurrangarri yankunytjaku yutjupitulakutu. Niila manytjinytjaku yilatu yilatu tjintu rakangka.



BY DENNIS NELSON  
TKAMARRA

People should wrap themselves in blankets to avoid getting a cold when they are sitting or lying down, or they should put a jumper on to avoid getting a cold, especially people with children so that their children don't get sick. People should make a fire to sit by and get a lot of firewood for the old men and women so they don't get sick from the cold. People should buy their old people blankets and new jumpers so that they don't get sick from the cold.

If people get a bad chest (pneumonia), they should go to the hospital and get a needle every day for 5 days.

Kurukunu kunyu ngalyanku nyakunytjaku pipirri tjuta yanangujarra maanytja yilatu yilatu pipirri kuulangurrara tjutangu kurukunu manytjilmalpa wiika kutjungka.

The trachoma program has started again. Every month the kids at school will be getting drops for one week.



# Images

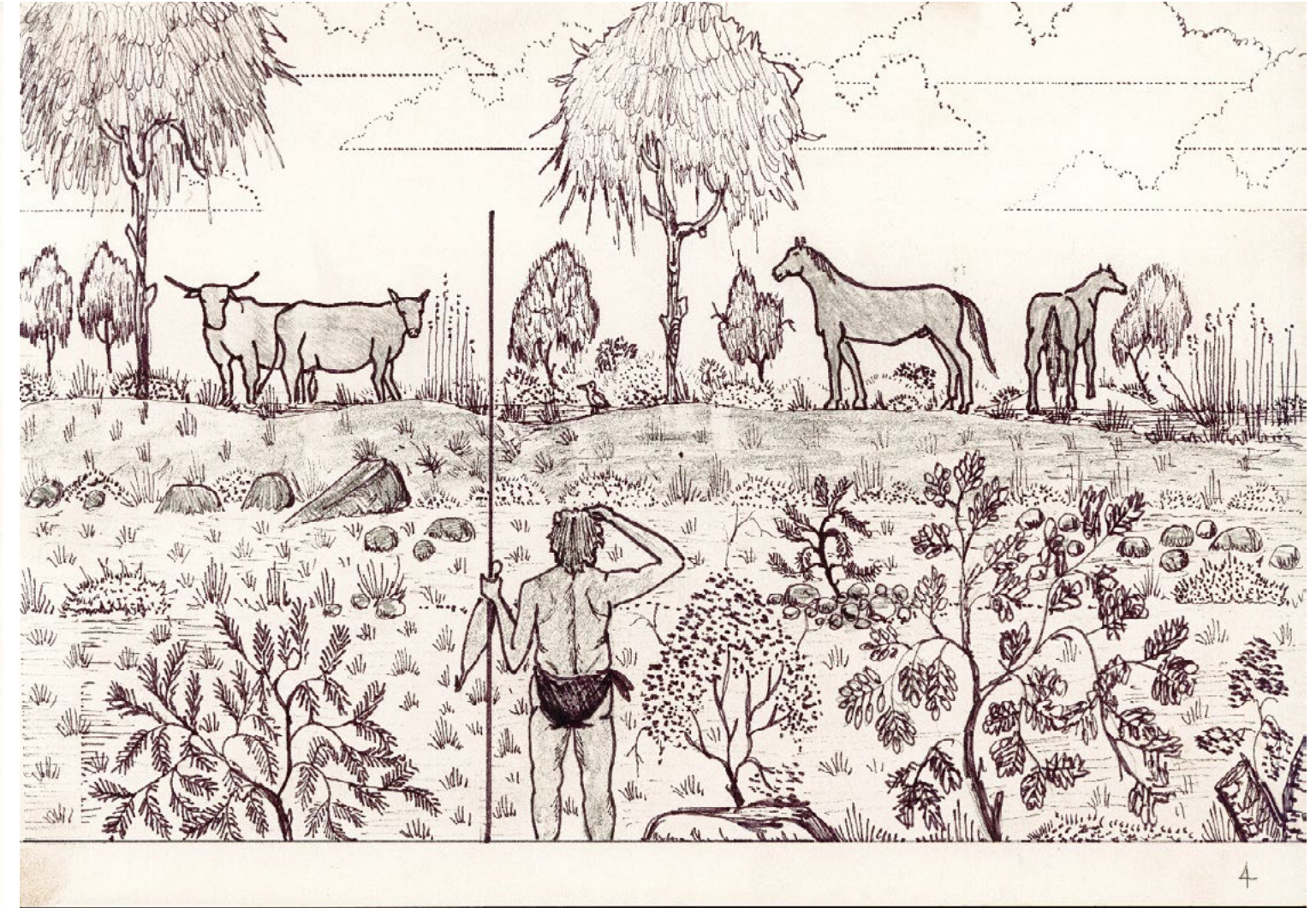


Image courtesy of Papunya  
Literature Production Centre  
Collection, Papunya School,  
Courtesy Libraries and Archives NT.  
Tjukurrpa Wanampitjarra,  
illustrated by Thomas Stevens

Image courtesy of Papunya  
Literature Production Centre  
Collection, Papunya School,  
Courtesy Libraries and Archives NT.  
Yirrkunytjilu Tjampijinpa Tjuta,  
illustrated by Dennis Nelson



# Images



Graphic Mockup 1

Pin Rada

They would tell stories for the school.



# Works / Objects and Display

| Works and objects  | Display mode            |
|--|-------------------------|
| 50 x Original historic drawings – singles and sequences  | Frame/Mount             |
| 3 x Manuscripts (handwritten and illustrated)  | Vitrine                 |
| 2 x small Papunya board paintings (from Papunya Community School Art Collection, currently in indefinite loan to Araluen Centre, Alice Springs)<br>Long jack Phillipus, Children's Dreaming, 1972<br>Johnny Warangula, Children's bush tucker Dreaming, 1972 | Hang                    |
| 4 x large contemporary drawings  | Framed, hang            |
| 20 x historic photos   | Frame/mount             |
| 6 short films (30 sec-1 min) (5 animations, 1 audio-visual Papunyascape)   | Projector & Screen      |
| 1 x Short film – profile of artists<br>Draft available <a href="https://vimeo.com/924876528/e998d12b34?share=copy">https://vimeo.com/924876528/e998d12b34?share=copy</a>   | Monitor & headphones    |
| 2 Posters (Artists portraits)  | Mount                   |
| Set of 12 digital books with audio   | Interactive touch table |
| Set of 12 digital Tjukurpa (community newspaper)   | Interactive touch table |

## Public Programs

Audience Engagement Family Trail and School Education Materials – downloadable TBC

Public Programs – artist talks and workshops (subject to funding)

**Cost:** \$5k + GST

## Contact Info

Roni Judge Visual Arts Manager  
Artback NT

PO Box 4582 Alice Springs NT 0871  
[e] [art@artbacknt.com.au](mailto:art@artbacknt.com.au)  
[p] +61 8 8953 5941

Artworks featured in the prospectus are indicative.