



BUKU-LARRNGAY MULKA

Yirrkala NT 0880 Phone 08 8987 1701 Fax 08 8987 2701
www.yirrkala.com art@yirrkala.com

Artwork Information

Title/Theme Larrakitj

Number 4435V

Medium Bark painting

Artwork Size 108 x26

Created 2013

Artist Information

Artist Name Djakanju Yunupingu

Other Names Dorothy Marrayiyil

Born c. 1950

Clan Gumatj, Rrakpala

Moiety Yirritja

Homeland Biranybirany



Artwork Description

In ancestral times, the leaders of Yirritja moiety clans used fire for the first time during a ceremony at Nalarrwuy in Gumatj country. This came about as fire brought to the Madarra clan country by B̄ru the ancestral crocodile, spread north and swept through the ceremonial ground. From this ceremonial ground the fire spread further to other sites. Various ancestral animals were affected and reacted in different ways. These animals became sacred totems of the Gumatj people and the areas associated with these events became important sites.

The fire spread inland from the ceremonial ground and burnt the nest of Waṅkurra (Bandicoot) forcing him to hide in a hollow log or Larrakitj to save himself. Waṅkurra is thus danced and sung at mortuary ceremony as he is associated with the burial log used to contain the bones of the deceased.

Djirrikitj, the quail, (sometimes called the 'fire making bird'), picked up a burning twig from this fire and flew away with it, dropping it at Maṭamaṭa.