

Bonnie Connolly

The Artist: Bonnie Connolly is **minyma Anangu**, as a senior Australian Aboriginal woman. Born near Docker River, she had a traditional upbringing in this area as well as at Ernabella Mission in South Australia. She lives in Mutitjulu where she has worked for a long time as a senior traditional consultant in the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. In the 1980s she was one of the original guides on the well known Liru walk. Bonnie still works with tourists both as a guide on the Anangu Tours - Kuniya Walk and as an artist for Maruku Arts and attends to making "Punu" (hand carved wooden items), Tjnapapi (woven baskets) and painting up to three days a week at Maruku's very own Gallery at the base of Uluru within the National Park Cultural Centre. Although carving since she was young, Bonnie also has a long history in painting.

Notes: This Painting depicts the **Tjukurpa**, the Law and stories of the Ancestors. Anangu (Central and Western Desert Aboriginal People) have responsibilities for the protection and teaching of different Tjukurpa and there are strict protocols for the imparting of the knowledge. The dotting technique had evolved with the need to adapt sacred expressions of Tjukurpa for public viewing and as a depiction of the desert landscape.

Bonnie's paintings have a signature style which always includes **Liru munu Kaniyaku Tjukurpa**. This is the Venomous Snake and Python Creation Law which is an important one for Uluru. It involves an army of Liru Men coming to the rock to take revenge on a Kuniya man. After successfully spearing him the man's aunt enacted her own revenge, striking dead one of the Liru warriors. These events have left their marks permanently etched into the face of Uluru.

This canvas also shows **minyma Tjuta** (senior women) collecting bush tucker. They use **Piti** (wooden bowls) and **wana** (digging sticks). They are collecting mai which includes **kampurarpa** for **tjala munu maku** (honey ants and witchetty grubs.) These foods too have their own Creation or Law stories. The Tjukurpa codes a wealth of knowledge used not only to hunt but to live in social harmony as well.