
SABBIA GALLERY

609 Elizabeth Street REDFERN NSW 2016 AUSTRALIA . PO Box 1126 STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012
www.sabbiagallery.com gallery@sabbiagallery.com
ABN 54 111 770 202

TJUNKAYA TAPAYA

Tjunkaya is a proficient writer in her own language, Pitjantjatjara and a highly respected senior leader. She is known throughout the region for her leadership particularly in regards to education policy and cultural maintenance. She had written widely on the history of her life, Ernabella and the art centre. This work is about the Pitjantjatjara concept of nintitjaku which means to teach, show or pass down. This is cultural obligation which Tjunkaya passionately pursues through her work both inside and outside the art centre.

Seven Sisters Statement

Kungkarangkalpa means the Seven Sisters. This is an extensive creation story that relates to the Pleiades constellation in the southern hemisphere. The story traverses Australia taking on different forms, however local women are privy to the part of the story which takes place in the country near Ernabella. For this part of the story, the man called Nyiru is chasing the sisters as he wants to sleep with the oldest sister. All the younger sisters are deeply afraid of him. As Nyiru is chasing the sisters, he tries to catch them by using magic to turn himself into the most tempting bush tomatoes for the sisters to eat and the most beautiful ili (fig) tree for the sisters to camp under. However, the sisters are aware of his magic and go hungry and run through the night rather than be caught by Nyiru. Eventually, to escape Nyiru, the sisters fly into the sky where they turn into stars and form the constellation.