

# Basic Detail Report

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**00040031**

**Title**

Yawkyawk spirit figure

**Date**

c 2004

**Primary Maker**

Marina Murdilnga

**Medium**

Natural fibre, paint

**Dimensions**

Overall: 2950 x 500 mm

**Name**

Sculpture

**History**

Many Aboriginal people inhabit a world where ancestral beings and ancestors are constantly present in the landscape and environment. The word Yawkyawk means 'young women' or 'young women spirit being'. These enigmatic creatures live in freshwater streams, especially in the stone country of Arnhem Land. Yawkyawks have long streaming hair which is a reference to the trails of blooming green algae that are found in the region's freshwater streams and pools. They are sometimes known to leave their water homes and walk around the land, especially during the night.