

Basic Detail Report



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Title

Kulba Yadail (Old Lyrics)

Date

2006

Primary Maker

Billy John McFarlane Missi

Medium

Linocut printed in black ink

Dimensions

Overall: 845 × 475 mm Image: 850 × 475 mm Mount /
Matt size: 1250 × 900 mm

Name

Linocut

History

Artist's statement: In our culture, stories and other knowledge of our world have always been handed down

orally from generation to generation since time immemorial. It is this knowledge that provides guidance. From the boys' perspective, it is their uncles, fathers and sometimes grandfathers who teach them this knowledge. This plays a big role later in life. Kulba Yadail teaches us to read the stars, the moon and the sea. This image symbolises Kulba Yadail that describes our environment, our culture and also our identity. The piece is divided into three parts: the constellations of the stars, the land and the four seasons of the Torres Strait. There are important Zugubal (star constellations) that move through the sky and are intimately connected to the four seasons. One of the most important Zugubal is the Baidam (shark) which is closely observed in the Western Torres Strait as a signal for changes in the tides, wind and seasons. The four seasons are represented as Sager (south-east trade winds), Ghabu Thornar (winter), Naigai (the calm Northerly wind before monsoon) and Kuki (the monsoon). The relationship between the stars and the seasons determines when we can cultivate, hunt and harvest the land. The swaying pattern that runs diagonally from the top left to the bottom right symbolises all of this complex knowledge, that is known as Kulba Yadail.