

# Basic Detail Report

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**00049231**

**Title**

Zagan Gud Aladhi (Star Constellation)

**Date**

2007

**Primary Maker**

Billy John McFarlane Missi

**Medium**

Linocut printed in black ink, hand coloured

**Dimensions**

Overall: 1000 × 700 mm Mount / Matt size (G Fini Mount):  
1429 × 900 mm

**Name**

Linocut

**History**

Artist's statement: Zagal are little fish that come around at a particular time of the year. In this print I express the disappearance of the Baidam (shark) constellation - zugu bau thithuil. Our culture's ontological belief is that during August when the Baidam disappears from the northern sky of the Torres Strait and all you see is other groups of stars, that's when the first group of migrant birds (birubirul) pass through from Papua New Guinea to mainland Australia. Early morning low tides become regular, which we call in our language Baidam au Thugau (meaning Baidam low tide in Kala Lagaw Ya, the Western Torres Strait Island dialect). This is usually at the end of Wongai season and signifies the beginning of the turtle mating season also. Zagal are plentiful at this time, so bigger fish attack and chase them along the reefs. The sharks, which are pregnant, chase the bigger fish to eat. These are times when there are only low tides in the morning and at night and only high tides during the day, leading up to the big spring tides.