

Basic Detail Report



00031655

Title

Barramundi Dreaming

Date

before 1998

Primary Maker

Shirley Purdie

Medium

Printing ink on handmade woven paper

Dimensions

Sheet: 570 x 725 mm

Name

Screenprint

History

Shirley Purdie was born about 1948 under a tree on Mabel Downs Cattle Station. In 1968 Shirley moved to the Warmun Community where she lives today together with her children, several "Kangai" or grandchildren and 'them other old people'. Shirley's mother, Madigan Thomas, was among the artists who established the Warmun Art Centre and Shirley learnt to paint from her and other elder artists such as Queenie McKenzie. She was encouraged to paint her Country and her stories and recalls her uncle Jack Britten telling her: "Why don't you try yourself for painting, you might be all right". Shirley says: "it's good to learn from old people. They keep saying when you paint you can remember that country, just like to take a photo, but there's the Ngarranggarni (Dreaming) and everything. Good to put it in painting, your country, so kids can know and understand. When the old people die, young people can read the stories from the paintings. They can learn from the paintings and maybe they want to start painting too." In addition to her Country, Shirley is known for exploring the Catholicism she was exposed to in her history in 2007 she won the Blake Prize for religious painting for her painting, 'Stations Of The Cross'. Shirley Purdie is one of a group of artists working out of the Warmun Art Centre. The centre is owned and governed by the Gija people with 100% of income returning to the community and whose focus is to "support, maintain and promote Gija art, thought, language and culture." - <http://warmunart.com.au>