

## **Ishmael Marika - Rulyapa ga Guṇḍa**

### **EXTENDED ARTIST STATEMENT**

I am singing the songline and animating the sacred design, Rulyapa. Rulyapa is the Rirratjinu moṇuk gapu (saltwater) between Yirrkala and Gutjanan (Bremer Island). A long time ago there was an old man, many of our people were angry with him. Instead of fighting back he walked from the beach into Rulyapa, all the way out till he was halfway to Gutjanan, there he stopped. The sea grew rough but he stood still as the angry waves representing the angry people crashed against him and he transformed into a guṇḍa (rock). The waves splashed onto the guṇḍa leaving behind a design on it's surface which helped the guṇḍa stand strong against the rushing water. The guṇḍa still stands there today, he is our ancient ancestor and has many names such as, Mururruma and Mānala. In this artwork the Rulyapa is rough, representing the angry feelings of people that crash against Mururruma but they do not effect him he stands strong and peaceful. When Rulyapa is calm Gupadiku (seasnake) sleeps on the bottom of the sea but when Rulyapa gets too rough it wakes Gupadiku and it rises to the surface and gets angry and can hurt with fire. When there are arguments in our families we remind each other of the songlines of Rulyapa, to stand still like Mururruma and not be affected by the angry waves. But we also warn that if the anger gets too great, Rulyapa will become very rough and will awaken Gupadiku.

### **BRIEF ARTIST STATEMENT**

I am singing the songline and animating the sacred design, Rulyapa, the Rirratjinu saltwater. Long ago there was an old man, people were angry with him. He retreated into Rulyapa stopping halfway to Gutjanan. Rulyapa grew rough, the old man stood still. As the waves crashed against him, he became a rock. The rock still stands there today; he is our ancient ancestor, Mururruma. In my artwork Rulyapa rushes at Mururruma but he stands strong.

### **Short ARTIST STATEMENT**

I am singing the songline and animating the design, Rulyapa (Rirratjinu saltwater). In Rulyapa there stands a rock, our ancient-ancestor Mururruma. Rulyapa is crashing against Mururruma but he stands strong.

Our ancient-ancestor Mururruma walked out far into the waters of Rulyapa and stopped. He stood still, the waves crashed against him, he became a rock. In my artwork Rulyapa rushes at Mururruma but he stands strong.