



Sonya Creek

Kuku Nyungkul

Mangkurru Mili

2022

earth & dry pigment on driftwood

Courtesy of the artist and Bana Yirriji Art Centre

I am a saltwater and freshwater woman. I collected rainforest driftwood from Weary Bay beach to create a mangkurru (mangrove). Mangroves are critical to the health of our environment. They protect us from cyclones and are nurseries for many fish species. The driftwood has been painted with white clay to represent bleached coral and bones.

*The iconography on my mangrove depicts mili (singing tree - *Dendrocnide moroides*), yunga (green ants) and kiju (mud crabs). My grandmother is from Wujal Wujal, where the Singing Tree is known as Mili. The Mili is my totem.*

My mum Lila Creek taught us how to hunt and collect food. I asked her to paint kiju (mud crabs) on my mangrove tree's roots to represent the importance of traditional knowledge and practices. I am very proud of my culture and working hard to pass it on to my kids and grandkids.

Us bama are very worried about climate change and see the impact here in Wujal Wujal and surrounding areas... We want to protect our Country and culture for the future generations..

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