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Dream Trackers : Yapa Art and Knowledge of the Australian Desert

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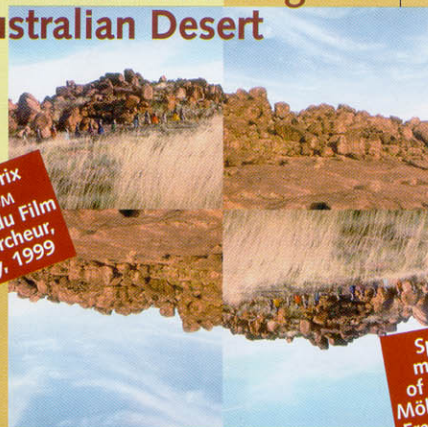
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UNESCO PUBLISHING

Dream Trackers Yapa Art and Knowledge of the Australian Desert



Grand Prix
CD-ROM
Festival du Film
de Chercheur,
Nancy, 1999

Special
mention
of the Jury
Möbius Prize,
France, 1998

Fifty-one Warlpiri artists and story-tellers lead us on a journey through their ritual painting, singing and dancing, on the tracks of their Dreaming Ancestors, who are embodied in the land.

Yapa is a central Australian word for 'indigenous people'. The Aboriginal notion of *jukurrpa* is the dream as a parallel space-time, a past, present and virtual memory of the earth and the cosmos. It manifests itself as Ancestral and Eternal Beings, the myths of their adventures, the trails of their travels, the rituals, sites or sacred objects that embody their living presence.

ANCESTRAL TRAILS : Jukurrpa



Developed for the Lajamanu Community of Central Australia by Virtuel Bazaar and Dr Barbara Glowczewski, senior anthropologist at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS, France), with support from the Institut de Recherche et Développement (IRD), the Direction de la Musique et de la Danse du Ministère de la Culture and the Musée du Quai Branly, Paris, France.

CD-ROM (Mac/PC) in English or French on the same disc

14 hours of navigation,
500 photos, 3 hours of
songs and stories in Warlpiri,
1/2 hour of film

ISBN: 92-3-003774-5
© Warnyaka Art Centre /
B. Glowczewski / UNESCO, 2000
Distribution: UNESCO Publishing,
under licence

- Yartakjogurtulu (the granites), bodies of the Warlpiri Plains and Pussam people who died in a battle
- Malyakartji: sacred cave formed by the Plains going underground after an attack of the Parrawaju Leel
- Pirrinjarta: waterhole made by the Plains trying to get off the ground
- Kalajirdi seed flat grass
- Nakamerre and Rapparrurle: women collecting seeds piled up by ants
- Jawalarna: place of the Wallaby and Kalajirdi Seed Dreaming
- Yawakipi Pluin Dreaming gong with the Pussams from the East
- Footprints: Pussams wallabies crossing the Plains from South to North
- Wampana wallabies crossing the Plains from South to North

Acrylic painting Pluin, Pussam and Wallaby, 160x126, 1989

Dep/Ya/A/00

As part of its initiative Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS), and in association with the Warnayaka Art Centre and the French anthropologist/producer Barbara Glowczewski, UNESCO presents this outstanding CD-ROM, the result of her many years of work with the Warlpiri people of the Lajamanu community.

This CD-ROM represents only a fraction of the complex cultural, ritual and ecological knowledge of the Warlpiri people. It is based on the network of the fourteen Dreamings most often painted by the people of Lajamanu. In fact, all named things in nature and culture have a Dreaming, or *jukurrpa*, so there are thousands of stories and named Dreaming places marking the Warlpiri land, their 'living book', as they call it.

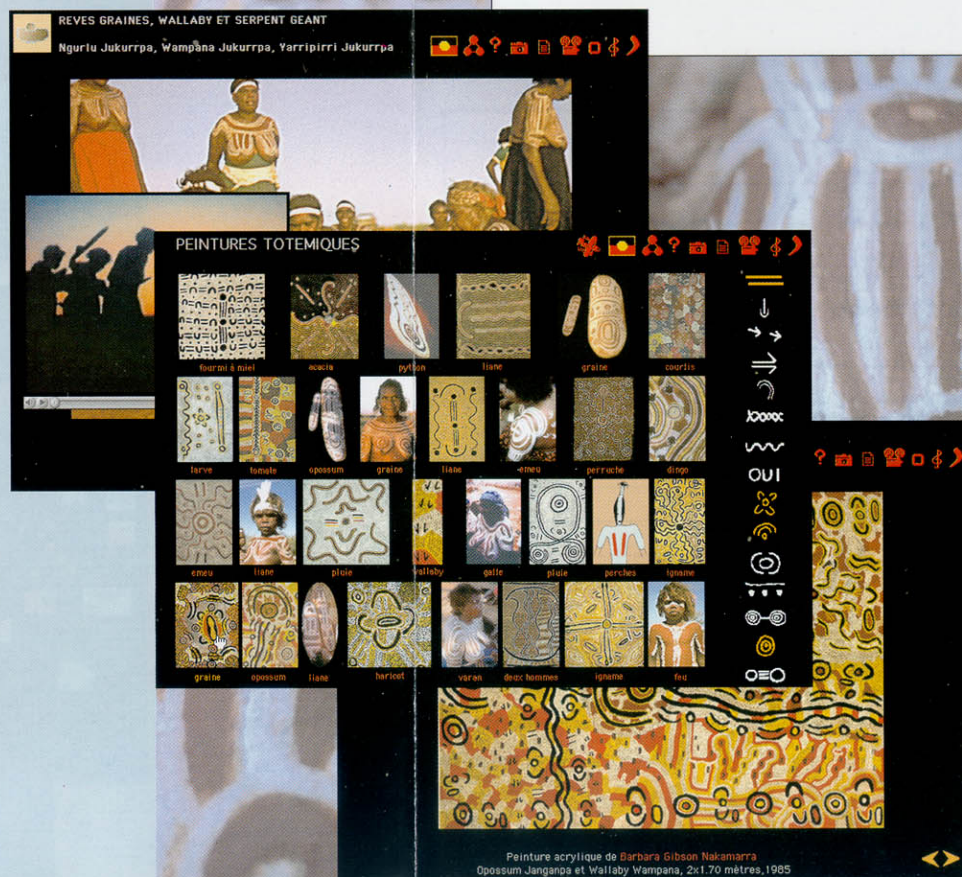
The transposition of Aboriginal cognitive mapping into an interactive map allows the user to experience the interconnectivity of indigenous cosmology, emulated by the logic of CD-ROMS or the Web. Unlike conventional linear text, multimedia is an ideal tool to convey the dynamism and wealth of oral traditions. By strengthening the dialogue between elders and youth, it reinforces the transmission of indigenous knowledge.

- Travel in the desert country of the Warlpiri men and women
- Discover the many links among animals, plants, places and people
- Explore hundreds of Dreaming stories, song-lines and paintings
- Read the signs painted on bodies, boards or canvas
- Study films of sand stories, hand signs and ritual dancing
- Learn Warlpiri words and meanings
- Search notebooks on art, colonization, healing or land-rights
- Understand the taboo on the deceased' names and pictures

Dream Trackers: Yapa Art and Knowledge of the Australian Desert has been developed in collaboration with fifty-one artists and story-tellers who, with the elders of the community, have carefully verified the contents. To respect Aboriginal ethics, the CD-ROM has been designed to allow the user to cover up images of the dead, which become taboo during the mourning period. The CD-ROM, in use by the Lajamanu school since 1998, was developed primarily to reconstitute to the Warlpiri their recorded heritage. The Community Council and the artists represented by the Warnayaka Art Centre decided to make the CD-ROM available to universities, museums, and other cultural institutions. The Warnayaka Art Centre receives part of the income from distribution.

Artists and story-tellers represented by the Warnayaka Art Centre

Jimmy Robertson Jampijinpa, Jimmy Kelly Jampijinpa, Tommy Hargraves Jampijinpa, Liddy Miller Nampijinpa, Tim Kennedy Jupurrula, Teddy Morrison Jupurrula, Victor Simon Jupurrula, Peggy Rockman Napaljarri, Molly Nangala, Linda Hector Nangala, Topsy Nangala, Lorna Fencer Napurrula, Rosie Tasman Napurrula, Jean Birrel Napurrula, Daisy Napurrula, Molly Napurrula, Abe Jangala, Jo Long Jangala, Henry Cook Jakamarra, Jacko Gordon Jakamarra, Barbara Gibson Nakamarra, Beryl Gibson Nakamarra, Jenny Nakamarra, Liddy Nelson Nakamarra, Liddy Herbert Nakamarra, Paddy Gibson Japaljarri, Bobbie Payton Japaljarri, Martin Johnson Japanangka, Bob Leo Japaljarri, Clarry Japaljarri, Billy Hogan Japaljarri, May Napaljarri, Louisa Lawson Napaljarri, Maisy Rennie Napaljarri, Nora Nungarrayi, Betty Yungari Nungarrayi, Margaret Martin Nungarrayi, Betty Jamanawita Nungarrayi, Elisabeth Ross Nungarrayi, Lily Hargraves Nungarrayi, Rosy Napangardi, Judy Jigili Napangardi, Neil Scobie Japanangka, Peter Blacksmith Japanangka, Jo James Japanangka, Betty Walker Napanangka, Nelly Napanangka, Peter Gordon Japangardi, Maggie Watson Napangardi, Maggie Pampa Napangardi, Maisy Kelly Napangardi.



“The author has succeeded in untangling the skein of myths based on the dream (*jukurrpa* in the Warlpiri language) that govern the life of Aboriginal people. But the dreaming in question is different from the one known to Westerners: dreaming is a “virtual space-time” in which all that exists on earth has been created at the onset by totemic heroes – plants, animals or representations of rain or fire. As they travelled, the ancestors left many traces of their passage in the form of hills, rocks or waterholes... All people that exist are thus the incarnation, the heroes, of these myths. But they must practise rituals in order to “reanimate the principles of these dreamings”, a virtual matrix of life and forms.”

Christiane Galus,
Le Monde, August 2000

Minimum system requirements:
32 MB RAM,
colour monitor 600 x 800 pixels
PC: Windows 95/98, 16-bit monitor
Mac: OS 8, PowerPC processor,
thousands of colours