

## Papunya Tjupi: A New Beginning

6 Sept - 6 Oct 2007 | Opens 6 Sept, 5:30 - 7:30pm

Free floor talk with curator Vivien Johnson 15 Sept, 11am



Beyula Napanangka, *Women Digging for Honey Ants at Papunya 2007*,  
61 x 55cm, acrylic on canvas, courtesy and © the artist, photo Sue Blackburn.

How is it possible that Papunya, made famous as the birthplace of contemporary Aboriginal art, has no art centre of its own? Even though art centres in neighbouring communities have thrived in the wake of Papunya's pioneering efforts, Papunya itself has been without adequate facilities for more than 30 years.

Things are poised to change. **Papunya Tjupi** is the name of the settlement's soon to be realised art centre, an initiative of the artists themselves including senior painters Long Jack Phillipus Tjakamarra and Michael Jagamara Nelson.

**Papunya Tjupi: A New Beginning** is the art centre's first exhibition. Paintings and prints showcase the depth of talent in Papunya, and the centre's ongoing artistic collaborations with the College of Fine Arts, UNSW which has produced the stunning prints on show. The exhibition spans several generations of painters at Papunya and includes well known senior artists, alongside emerging talents.

Long Jack Phillipus was one of the first Papunya Tula painters. In **Papunya Tjupi**, his three daughters exhibit beside him, continuing tradition. In fact, most Papunya Tjupi artists have familial links to the original Western Desert movement. Many, like Punata Stockman Nungurrayi (daughter of Billy Stockman Tjapaltjarri) or Johnny Warangkula's three daughters, learned by observing their fathers or assisting on their paintings.

According to the exhibition's curator Vivien Johnson, the Papunya Tjupi artists want an art centre to encourage painting and new media arts, "So that our children will know their stories, but also so our children will have an occupation for their future."

100% of proceeds from sales will go to the artists and the Papunya Tjupi art centre.

**For more information , interviews or images please contact**

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