



MEDIA RELEASE

Maureen Nampijinpa Hudson

"I believe strongly in my culture and traditions. They give me grounding and a sense of place and belonging,"
– Maureen Nampijinpa Hudson.

Japingka Gallery, Fremantle is bringing the exciting, innovative, Indigenous artist, **Maureen Nampijinpa Hudson** across from Mount Allen in Central Australia for her first solo exhibition in Western Australia. Maureen has already created a sensation in the Eastern States and overseas with her distinctive, subtle and sophisticated paintings of her Country.

Maureen, who is **Warlpiri** and **Anmatyerre**, was born in 1952 at Mount Allan, near **Yuendumu** in central Australia. Her paintings or Dreamings originate from Warlukulongu, her father's and grandfather's country and involve the important "Water Dreaming" as well as "Emu and Fire Dreamings" from her fathers side and "Women's Ceremonies" from her mothers side. Maureen's first love is painting which she refers to as "culture art".

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The centre piece of this important new exhibition of over 40 new paintings, is a stunning and mesmerising major work measuring over 3 metres which depicts an aerial view of Maureen's country and all the spiritual and physical aspects of the "Water Dreaming". This complex and beautiful painting transports us to a spot some five thousand metres above the land where we can gaze down and wonder at the intricate interplay between the different aspects of this diverse landscape.

Maureen says of this remarkable painting: *"This is Water and Lightning Dreaming situated at Mikanji, south-west of Yuendumu (300 kms n/w of Alice Springs). Here during the Tjukurpa (Dreamtime) a man of the Jampajimpa moiety sang rain-making songs, and his travels shaped the landscape. This land is cared for by the Jangala /Jampajimpa father and son line. The sites created during this journey are shown as circles, some of them rock-holes, and the wavy lines are water flowing after rain".*

Maureen grew up in traditional way, living in the bush where the ceremonies were very strong, and painting was only done on the body or the ground. Many of her family are artists. Maureen started painting in the mid 80's and says of her work: *"My main stories are my father's stories of Fire Dreaming, Napa – Water Dreaming. Lightning Dreaming. And my mother's side as well, women's ceremonies."*

Maureen is looking forward to the trip to Fremantle and the chance to meet West Australians and tell them about her Dreamings and Culture and the stories behind her paintings of Country. Maureen will be attending the official opening of her exhibition which will be held at JAPINGKA GALLERY, 47 High Street, Fremantle at 6.30pm -9.00pm on Friday 20th May. The Exhibition will run until 26th June, 2005.

This exhibition is a great opportunity to meet this exciting, emerging artist and to personally view these amazing and highly collectable artworks.

"Maureen Nampijinpa Hudson"

opens at 6.30pm on Friday the 20th May, and runs seven days a week until 26th June, 2005.

@ Japingka Gallery, **47 High Street, Fremantle**

Gallery Hours are Mon - Fri: 10.00am 5.30pm. Sat: 10.00am–5.30pm Sun: 12.am–5.00pm.

Admission is free to the public.