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Jennifer Green
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Drawn from the Ground

Sand stories from Central Australia are a traditional form of Aboriginal women's verbal art that incorporates speech, song, sign, gesture and drawing. Small leaves and other objects may be used to represent story characters. This detailed study of Arandic sand stories takes a multimodal approach to the analysis of the stories and shows how the expressive elements used in the stories are orchestrated together.

This richly illustrated volume is essential reading for anyone interested in language and communication. It adds to the growing recognition that language encompasses much more than speech alone and shows how important it is to consider the various semiotic resources employed in communication as an integrated whole rather than in isolation.

JENNIFER GREEN is a research fellow in the School of Languages and Linguistics at the University of Melbourne. She has over thirty years' experience working on projects documenting Indigenous languages, history and visual arts.

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Editor Stephen C. Levinson, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics

This series looks at the role of language in human cognition – language in both its universal, psychological aspects and its variable, cultural aspects. Studies focus on the relation between semantic and conceptual categories and processes, especially as these are illuminated by cross-linguistic and cross-cultural studies, the study of language acquisition and conceptual development, and the study of the relation of speech production and comprehension to other kinds of behaviour in cultural context. Books come principally, though not exclusively, from research associated with the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen, and in particular the Language and Cognition Group.

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Drawn from the Ground

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A storyteller's practised hand
inscribed in sand
a desert tale of spirits caught.
Composed of thought
that's burnished by an ancient tongue
in verses sung,
she traced their footsteps in among
the rocks and range and to a gap.
Her lines all linked to form a map
inscribed in sand, composed of thought in verses sung.
DPW 2012

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