Seated on the red sand, a Central Australian woman in a pink dress unravels knots in a long red ochre-coated rope. She stands up, folds the rope like a multi-stranded necklace and bends over a sick woman who lies on the ground, a Snake design painted around her navel. The painter, sitting by her side, holds one end of the rope over the patient's painted belly and swings the rope back and forth with the help of the woman in pink. After a while, she pulls the rope with a brisk movement as if extracting something from the patient. She grasps the rope in both hands and, raising a foot, places it between her legs. Then holding the rope, she prances away in little leaps, with her feet spread slightly apart, as Warlpiri women do in their rituals.