

NAIDOC Week With Walangari Karntawarra

Strathfield Library & Innovation Hub

27 June – 27 August 2023

For over 35 years, First Nations' Aboriginal artist, elder, educator and performer, Walangari Karntawarra has painted his Dreamtime stories. These are known in his language as the Jukurrpa. He paints only the following Jukurrpa: snake, honey ant, witchetty grub, centipede, caterpillar, water, fire, emu, kangaroo, mouse, rainbow, Milky way and the Seven Sisters. He has either inherited these Jukurrpa or its living custodian has given him permission to paint it. He also paints generic stories like bush tucker, bush medicine, and teaching-learning stories and songlines.

Walangari elaborates about Aboriginal Dreaming, their stories and the ways in which he weaves them into his works of art. *"The images that I paint are spiritual images. I believe that the spirits have blessed me with a gift that I must share. This gift I have is in my paintings. They are fractal images, a representation of chaos and order, of yin and yang, of sunrise and sunset, of hot and cold, of light and dark, of young and old, of black and white and of right and wrong. The colours speak of rainbow spirits, woman, and man. This world and this universe are a living entity. This entity was divided into two, male and female.*

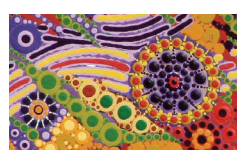
It is the beginning of chaos, a simple formula yet all encompassing. The two starting points meet at a crossroad. Left for woman and right for man. They are images that transport you back in time and at the same time they entertain and effect the modern mind. The images are not meant to be full representations of sacred cultures, but a baby's view of the world. Painting each painting is like being inside a mind of a conceptual being as it creates itself with me being the channel, the artist with whom they enter this world."

- Walangari Karntawarra

IRONBARK

GALLERY


STRATHFIELD
COUNCIL



WALANGARI KARNTAWARRA

ARTIST EDUCATOR PERFORMER