

Walangari Karntawarra – Q&A

Q1. Can you give us an insight into your artistic process? Is your work preplanned or created intuitively? How long does each work take to complete?

I choose my subject matter from my culture and work hard to maintain my connections to my Dreaming Stories and the history of my people. It is important to have a spiritual connection to life especially when it is hard to go bush when you are not in your own country but that is a sacrifice that I had made to progress and grow my artist career.

I do not pre plan my art works as most of my paintings are organic and that way it is far more abstract. The process of course is different to portraiture and landscapes for example.

Q2. How long does each artwork take to complete?

It all depends on the size of the work as well as the style I want to paint in. I have a few different styles that I use and quite often, it can depend on the time.

Q3. Can you explain your technique; how you manipulate the medium?

My technique varies and once again it depends on the style of work, I want to present but also can depend on time constrains, such as my other work in education and Schools.

Q4. Do you keep some kind of ongoing drawing book or diary? Or a collection of images or photographs for inspiration?

No, I do not keep a diary.

I do however collect my won works for my retirement and to leave a legacy for my children and my family. I can also refer to older works to look for inspiration.

Q5. Who are your favourite artists? Who do you draw inspiration from?

I have many but I consider my Great grandfather an Albert Namatjira and my Grandfather Clifford Possum as the two most influential artist in my life and without those two artists I would not have created my own styles.

As well as Albert and Clifford I also get inspiration form Jackson Pollock Who has had a huge impact on my artistic images, especially what I refer to as my "Signature style" where I would splash and dribble the paint onto the canvas as a starting point.











