

Painting the everyday

Luritja and Pitjantjatjara artist Sally M Nangala Mulda combines images and words to tell stories of daily life in Abbott's Camp on the Todd River in Mparntwe/Alice Springs.

Look closely at the two men. What do you think they are talking about?



Sally M Nangala Mulda Two man talking story at town camp 2018, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Mollie Gowing Acquisition Fund for Contemporary Aboriginal Art 2019 © Sally M Nangala Mulda/ Copyright Agency Draw a scene from your day today. Include words to describe your experiences at the Art Gallery.



At home, create a series of paintings about your everyday life. Include the people you see and the different activities they take part in.

Imagine holding the shield. Do you think it would be heavy? Describe how the artist might have carved it.

Picture the landscape where you live. Fill these outlines with designs inspired by the shapes and lines of this place.

At home, use the internet to learn about shield-making in the south-east of Australia.

Carving connections

Andrew Snelgar creates shields that draw on his Ngemba culture. The designs on this shield reflect the forms of Country where he lives in northern New South Wales.

Nuclear histories



Kokatha and Nukunu artist Yhonnie Scarce has used hand-blown glass to represent the clouds that formed after nuclear tests were carried out at Maralinga in South Australia in the 1950s and 1960s. Each glass piece is shaped like a bush yam, a local food. They also represent the people affected by the tests.

Imagine lying under this cloud. Draw what you might see.

At home, sit outside and draw the clouds that pass over you.

Yiribana Gallery featuring (from left) Yukultji Napangati Untitled 2005, Doreen Reid Nakamarra Untitled 2007, Bobby West Tjupurrula Tingari sites around Kiwirrkurra 2015 and Ronnie Tjampitjinpa Tingari fire dreaming at Wilkinkarra 2008, and (top) Yhonnie Scarce Death zephyr 2017, photo © Art Gallery of New South Wales, Zan Wimberley

Metal and fire

Yolŋu artist Wanapati Yunupiŋu etches Gumatj clan designs onto discarded materials that he sources on Country in north-eastern Arnhem Land. Here he shares stories about the creation of fire, first brought to Gumatj Country by Bäru the crocodile. Describe the materials this artwork is made from. How has the artist transformed this everyday object?

Draw your own depiction of fire using line and shape. How will you show fire's flickering movement?





for Contemporary Aboriginal Art 2021 © Wanapati Yunupinu

Wanapati Yunupinu Gurtha 2021, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Mollie Gowing Acquisition Fund

Pack of ku'

Wik artist Lex Namponan is one of a group of artists from Aurukun, on the Cape York Peninsula, who worked together to create a pack of ku' (dog) sculptures. The artists used colour, shape and posture to express the dogs' different personalities.

Count the ku' in the pack and look out for others around the Art Gallery.

At home, work with your family or friends to create an artwork together. Draw a pack of dogs. How will you express each dog's personality in your drawing? Name your dogs.



Above: Lex Namponan *Ku' in keny* 2022, from the series *Pack of ku'*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, commissioned with funds provided by the Aboriginal Art Collection Benefactors 2021

Cover from top: Leo Namponan *Ku' Piikalith* 2021 and *Ku' (dog)* 2022, from the series *Pack of Ku'*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, commissioned with funds provided by the Aboriginal Art Collection Benefactors 2021

Weaving culture

Design a wearable form that represents you. Think about colour, shape and symbolism. Grace Lillian Lee uses Zenadth Kes/Torres Strait 'grasshopper weaving' techniques to make sculptural works that represent her culture. The central red piece stands for the artist and the four white pieces embody her community and Ancestors.

Imagine how these forms might be worn. How would they feel? What situations might they be worn in?

At home, design and create a piece of wearable art from recycled materials.

Grace Lillian Lee Belonging 1–5 2021–22, Art Gallery of New South Wales, commissioned with funds provided by the Aboriginal Art Collection Benefactors 2021 @ Grace Lillian Lee





Waradgerie (Wiradjuri) artist Lorraine Connelly-Northey creates sculptures from discarded materials that she finds in the bush. These forms relate to narrbong-galang – fibre bags that are used for collecting food sources such as potatoes (yam daisies) and small meat (frogs, turtles and snakes).

Look closely at each narrbong. Notice the colours and textures of the rusted metal.

At home, identify the different varieties of potatoes available at your local shops. Find out about the differing qualities of each kind. Lorraine Connelly-Northey Narrbong-galang (many bags) 2022, Art Gallery of New South Wales, purchased with funds provided by the Art Gallery of New South Wales Foundation 2022 © Lorraine Connelly-Northey

Gathered on Country

Choose a section of one narrbong and draw the details of the surface and edges.