

Aboriginal Art

Contemporary Australian Aboriginal Art is based on important ancient stories and symbols taken from 'the Dreamtime' – a period in time where Indigenous people believe the world was created.

The stories are thought to be over 50,000 years old, and have been handed down through generations.

Aboriginal symbols are used instead of written language. They have no written language of their own so traditional symbols (icons) are used to tell the stories. Paintings are used to teach generations about their culture and history.

Dots were used to hide secret information within their paintings. Concerned that others outside of their culture would find out sacred and private knowledge they hid icons and symbols within the dots.

All iconic symbols and imagery used have a meaning. For instance, the U shape represents a person. If you sit cross-legged in the sand this is the shape that it leaves, therefore much of the art made from those living in the desert incorporates this shape.

