Painted Stories


LINKING COUNTRY, ART AND CULTURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIVAL
Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula, Australia
Ada Woolla, Mavis Ngallametta, Vera Woolla, Gina Allain and Louise Ashmore

[Photos L. Ashmore & G. Allain]
Painted Stories

Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula

Languages referred to in this talk:

- Wik-Mungkan (first language of children)
- Wik-Ngathan
- Wik-Alken/Wik-Ngatharr
- Kugu Uwanh
This paper considers the role of art in the creative transmission of cultural and linguistic knowledge.

It explores the potential for combining art therapy, language documentation and oral history methods in reconnecting community, country and language in First Nation language revival work.
The projects were developed in response to the concerns of community members that a lack of access to country had resulted in disruption in the inter-generational transmission of linguistic and cultural knowledge in terms of specific vocabulary, mythological narratives, land management and traditional knowledge systems.

Akay Koo’oila Bush fruits and flowers (2013) [Photo: G. Allain]
Painted Stories

Methods:

• Art Therapy
• Language Documentation
• Digital Documentation
• Collaborative work
• Repatriation of archival materials

Outcomes:

Potential for developing creative livelihoods, therapeutic benefits, rich language documentation materials and community-led language support resources
Painted Stories

Notions of wellbeing and the relationship with country, language and creative practices will be explored through three projects developed by the Aurukun community:

- Painted Stories (2016)
- Life Stories (2016)
Oonyawa: From Museum back to Country

Ada Woolla, Amelia Woolla, Jean Walmbeng, Lois Toikalkin
Oonyawa (2013). [Photo: Richard Hodges]
Blue Lagoon: Language and Art Camps

Following workshops at Aurukun, a camp was held at Blue Lagoon near the Oonyawa story place.

Archival recordings were listened to on site and photographs and materials from the South Australian Museum archives were looked at.

On-country workshops were held for children.

A collaborative painting showing the clan country was painted on site.

Activities such as seed collecting, fishing and story-telling were documented.
PAINTED STORIES: LINKING COUNTRY, ART AND CULTURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIVAL
Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula, Australia
PAINTED STORIES: LINKING COUNTRY, ART AND CULTURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIVAL
Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula, Australia
PAINTED STORIES: LINKING COUNTRY, ART AND CULTURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIVAL

Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula, Australia
PAINTED STORIES: LINKING COUNTRY, ART AND CULTURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIVAL
Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula, Australia
We are trying to keep our language up and to have it written so it can be read and be known to our future children when we pass on. I would like to leave this language to them so that they would know how to speak it and what to learn about things in their own language. The language is Wik-Alken. (V. Koomeeta 31/03/2016)
PAINTED STORIES: LINKING COUNTRY, ART AND CULTURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIVAL

Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula, Australia
PAINTED STORIES: LINKING COUNTRY, ART AND CULTURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIVAL
Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula, Australia
PAINTED STORIES: LINKING COUNTRY, ART AND CULTURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIVAL
Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula, Australia
PAINTED STORIES: LINKING COUNTRY, ART AND CULTURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIVAL
Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula, Australia
PAINTED STORIES: LINKING COUNTRY, ART AND CULTURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIVAL

Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula, Australia
Life Stories: Language, Art and Memory

Chivaree Centre, Aurukun
22nd Nov–2 Dec 2016

PAINTED STORIES: LINKING COUNTRY, ART AND CULTURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIVAL

Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula, Australia
PAINTED STORIES: LINKING COUNTRY, ART AND CULTURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIVAL
Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula, Australia
PAINTED STORIES: LINKING COUNTRY, ART AND CULTURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIVAL
Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula, Australia

[Photos: G. Allain]
PAINTED STORIES: LINKING COUNTRY, ART AND CULTURE FOR LANGUAGE REVIVAL

Aurukun, Cape York Peninsula, Australia