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### An interesting peek into an incredible journey of Australian aboriginal Art

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#### Abstract

Ancient art has existed from several years. It had been used for different purposes since old times to please gods, demonstrate culture and stories. This unique Aboriginal art belonged to the indigenous people of Australia. It had been the oldest form of art existed and executed till date. Aboriginal expression were involved in this art like rock carving, body paintings and various ground designs. This paper includes interesting facts related to the origin, purpose and importance of Aboriginal Art and the materials involved in it. This study will drive the reader into an amazing and different world of Australian Aboriginal art, people and their beliefs.

**Keywords:** Aboriginal art, rock engravings, paintings, culture, dreaming, designs, symbols

#### Introduction

The Ancient Aboriginal Art came into being around fifty Millennia. This started when Aborigines settled themselves in Australia. This art was unknown to the world till second half of 20th Century. At that time in Australia there was no way in which Australian aboriginal people could tell their cultural tales, so it was done through symbols, icons used in artwork. According to (Caruana, 2012) <sup>[1]</sup> "Art is a medium to connect our Present with Past times, human beings and supernatural world". The durable forms of Rock engravings and rock paintings comes under this form of Art. This traditional form of art conveyed beliefs of Aboriginal people related to land, events and culture. The aboriginal art before the arrival of Europeans completely served the traditional and Cultural needs of people. Colemann (Autumm, 2001) <sup>[2]</sup>, states" *The model of Aboriginal art as insigmia has significant explanatory power*". Aboriginal artists required permission to paint stories. They have no right to paint stories not belonging to them or their family. According to Aboriginal people connection between their art and identity can be clearly understood and it also explains their relations between land, Art and authority.



**Image 1:** (This image shows the use of symbols which aboriginal people used in writing down stories. Image downloaded from The Amazing story of Aboriginal Art [aboriginal-art-australia.com/aboriginal-art-library/the-story-of-aboriginal-art](http://aboriginal-art-australia.com/aboriginal-art-library/the-story-of-aboriginal-art))

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**Image 2:** (Image with use of symbols downloaded from The Amazing story of Aboriginal Art [aboriginal-art-australia.com/aboriginal-art-library/the-story-of-aboriginal-art](http://aboriginal-art-australia.com/aboriginal-art-library/the-story-of-aboriginal-art))

### Aboriginal visual art and its importance

This art can be seen in many Varieties like Rock engravings, Paintings, ceremonial sculpture. Aboriginal Australia holds a range of artistic traditions where conventional designs and symbols are powerful. Every symbol used in work may contain several meanings. Each set of design is explained according to social, Ritual and political circumstances. The

explanation entirely depends on the knowledge of artist and observer. Therefore, a ritually elder person will have a variety of approach in terms of meanings related to a specific image (Caruana, 2012) <sup>[1]</sup>, mentions "Artists talk of two broad Interpretations the inside stories which are restricted to those of appropriate ritual standing and the outside stories which are open to all".

Application of Religious images is capable of transforming an ordinary work into an extraordinary and sacred one. The level of brightness present in art denotes the supernatural power and it also furnishes means for artists to take a look beyond physical aspects of life.

### The aspect of dreaming

The focal point related to spiritual aspect of Aboriginal people is on Dreaming. It basically concentrates on activities and deeds of supernatural beings and creators such as rainbow serpents, lightning men, the Wahilag sisters, the Tinjaro in human and non human form who visits the unshaped world and created laws of Social and Religious behavior. Dreaming is a tool which provides framework through which humans maintains a balance with universe. Dreaming events have generated great subjects related to Aboriginal art of Australia.



**Image 3:** (Image taken The Amazing story of Aboriginal Art [aboriginal-art-australia.com/aboriginal-art-library/the-story-of-aboriginal-art](http://aboriginal-art-australia.com/aboriginal-art-library/the-story-of-aboriginal-art))



**Image 4:** (Image taken The Amazing story of Aboriginal Art [aboriginal-art-australia.com/aboriginal-art-library/the-story-of-aboriginal-art](http://aboriginal-art-australia.com/aboriginal-art-library/the-story-of-aboriginal-art))

**Materials involved in this art**

Materials used in this art belonged to local land. Use of Iron clay and ochre for producing colors such as white, yellow, Red, Black from charcoal can be observed. Added colors like smokey, greys, sage greens and Saltbrush mauves can also be noticed. Till mid of 1980's a huge variation of modern colors were used in this art. Several communities developed the choice of color as their identity of style such as Papunya, Tula were known for using soft earthy colors whereas some western communities choose bold strong primary colors in this art. Mixtures of Blood, Fats, feathers and various organic materials were part of this art. The procedure includes application of Ochre and pigments on canvas with the blowing technique involving the use of mouth on stencils with the use of frayed stick or even by hand. Materials like Orchid sap and turtle egg yolks were mostly used as binding agents for pigments on canvas

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