

Week 5

Emily Kame Kngwarreye 1910- 1996 Australia

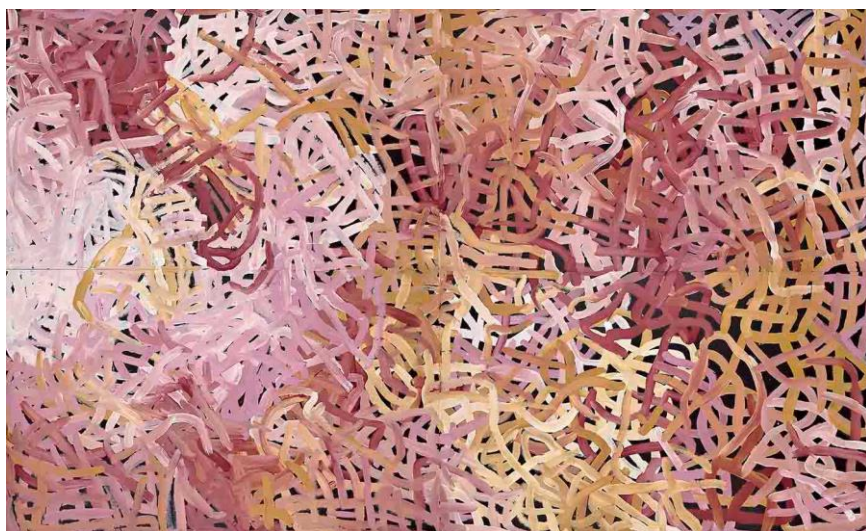


These paintings by **Emily Kame Kngwarreye** are called **Yam** and **Big Yam**.

The top one is **Yam** and was painted in **1989**.

The bottom one is **Big Yam** and was painted in **1996**.

They are both inspired by an edible plant called a pencil yam.



The **Kame** part of Emily's name means Yam.

The dots can be seen as seeds scattering across the land and the lines represent the cracked earth and the network of roots below the ground.

But there is a lot more to Emily's painting than just yams!

This week you will need.....

| From your Art Bag | From Home | For the extra project |
|--|---|---|
| Sketchbook Pencil Berol Pen Paints Paint Brush Paper plate palette Cotton buds | Something to cover your workspace Spoon to get paint out of pot Water pot Lids or milk bottle tops to mix paints in Tissue to clean up with | 2 sticks roughly 15cm/6inches long - find them in a park or your garden fallen from a tree. Sandpaper if you have any but not essential. |

About the artist.....

In Aboriginal art (also called Indigenous Australian art) the artist uses dots, lines and symbols to tell the story of their ancestor's journeys across the land, these stories are known as their **dreamings** and each artist tells their own story.

Emily Kame Kngwarreye was born in 1910 in a remote desert village in the centre of Australia called Utopia.

Her art is inspired by the landscape around her ancestral home and the local plants and animals, her colours change with the seasons, this was her world.

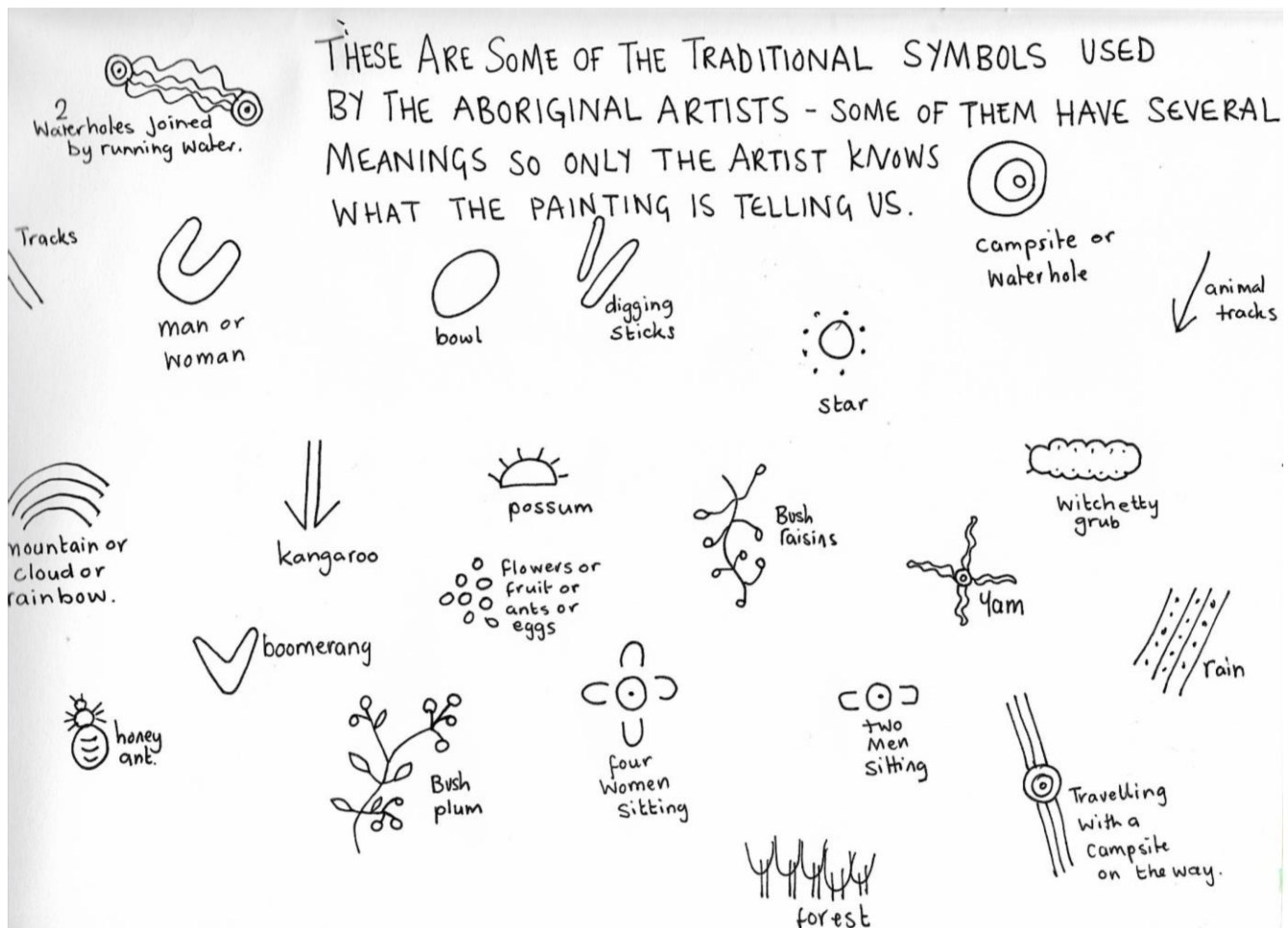
Emily said that what she painted was.....*"my dreaming..that's what I paint, whole lot"*

Until she was about 80 Emily painted ceremonial designs on women's bodies.

She was discovered in 1988 and became an overnight success, during her 80's she made 3,000 paintings which is about one every day.

In 2007 one of Emily's paintings sold at auction for over a million dollars, she was both the first female Australian and the first Aboriginal artist to break the million dollar mark.

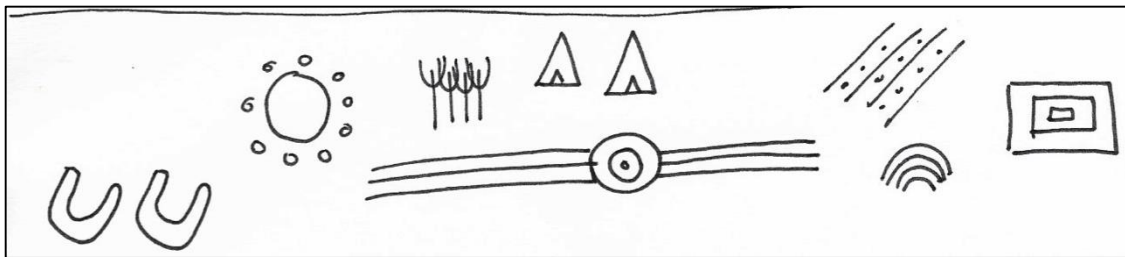
Activity 1 – Symbols



On a new page in your sketchbook draw the story of a journey using these traditional symbols.

You could also make up some symbols of your own.

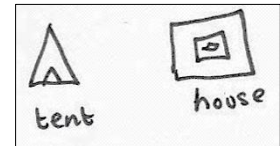
There is an example on the next page.



This is the story of 2 people who went for a walk at night time to a campsite in a forest and they pitched their tents. In the morning it was raining so they went home but on the way they saw a rainbow.

I have used traditional symbols and made up 2 of my own.

Tell as many stories as you like make sure you keep a note of what your symbols mean.



Activity 2 – Painting

Now you are going to paint like Emily Kame Kngwarreye.

Find a clean double page in your sketchbook, on one side you will make a watery line painting and on the other side a thick dot painting.

REMEMBER: DOTS = THICK PAINT ROOTS = THIN PAINT

Paint a background colour all over one page with one of your bright colours. You will need to use water to get the paint to spread evenly across the page but it should not be watery, you need a solid smooth background.

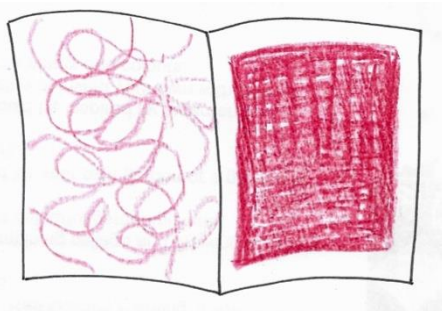
This is the base for your dot painting.

Leave it to dry completely.

Whilst this is drying you can start your line painting on the other page.

For this you can start with the same colour you just used but you need very watery paint and a lid with some water in for mixing.

You should still have enough paint on your brush, if your brush is clean just dip the tip of it into the paint, then mix it into the water in the lid, it should be very thin and see through.



Your sketchbook page should look like this.

Use your brush to paint yam roots across the page, go right across the page, from top to bottom or side to side, wiggle and swirl, imagine you are a root trying to grow through the hard cracked earth.

Continue until you have roots all over your page.

Add more water as you go to change the tone of your paint, but you shouldn't need to add more paint.

When you are happy that you have a good root painting, leave it to dry and we will come back to it later.

Now go back to your first painting, check that it is completely dry before you begin.

Choose another paint colour that will show up well on your background and put a small amount into a dry lid or onto your paper plate palette, you don't need any water for this bit.

Dip your cotton bud into the paint and begin your dot painting, you can make patterns or use the symbols to tell a story or create a page full of seeds blowing around in the wind.

You could also use the end of your paintbrush or the end of a pencil to make the dots, why not try all three?

Use more colours if you like but it's best to let the first colour dry before adding the next one.

Keep dotting with your cotton bud until you are happy with your design.

Finally go back to your root painting, the first colour should be dry by now so you can add another root painting on top using a different colour, remember that for this painting your paint should be really watery and thin.

Because you are using thin paint it will be transparent and where your two paintings cross over each other you will be able to see the two layers of roots, you will also get changes in tone and colour.



Here you can see how thin the paint needs to be so all the layers of roots show through.



Here I have used the cotton bud to paint some of the symbols and begun to fill in the background with dots.

If you are enjoying Emily Kame Kngwarreye then you can try this **extra activity**:

Make a pair of digging sticks

Digging sticks are used by the Aborigines to dig for roots and insects for food.

They are also used as an ancient musical instrument called **clapsticks**, they are clapped together to make music at traditional ceremonies.

Find a couple of sticks or twigs about 15cm or 6 inches long, they don't have to be exact or perfect. If you have some sandpaper you could smooth them down a bit, if not just make sure they are clean and remove any bits of flaking bark.

Paint a base colour on both sticks, use the paint quite thick but add a bit of water to help it spread. Stand the sticks up to dry in a jam jar or plant pot or similar.

When they are dry paint patterns in another colour, use your brush or cotton buds.

When they are dry, try making some traditional Australian music, or hang them up on display around your house or garden (the paint will be permanent).

Have fun but don't use all your paint you need it again in WEEK 7.

I hope you enjoyed Emily Kame Kngwarreye, next week it's back to England.