

Hermansburg Potters

Indigenous Art Football and Community Mission Days



Irene Mbitjana Entata
Western Arrernte 1946-2014
Imanka (Mission days) 2000
Hermansburg, Northern Territory
earthenware
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Purchased with funds donated by
Supporters and Patrons of Aboriginal Art,
2001 (2001.569.a-b)
Copyright courtesy of the artist



Photography: Tobias Titz

The Hermannsburg Potters belong to a small community 130 kilometres south-west of Alice Springs. They are famous for their colourful terracotta pots which tell stories about their culture and where they live: their Country, the mission days, bush tucker and, of course, football! During footy season the Hermannsburg community get together to watch AFL on TV and on weekends many make the trip to Alice Springs to support local teams.

This resource is part of a package of resources that introduce you to the Hermannsburg potters, their art, their community and their love of football.

This resource explores the deep connection that the Western Arrernte people have to their country and its history. Discover how their country and its history have inspired the Hermannsburg Potters.



Photography: Tobias Titz

The Hermannsburg Potters come from an area of Central Australia traditionally owned by the Western Arrernte people. They are deeply connected to this land and its history. The Potters paint birds, plants and their Country on the pots from memory, while in the studio.

Mission Days



In 1877 the Hermannsburg Mission was established by Lutheran missionaries in the Northern Territory at a place the Western Arrernte people call Ntaria.

The missionaries originally came from the small town in Germany.

This is why Ntaria is also known as Hermannsburg.



Photography: Tobias Titz

The landscape around Ntaria (Hermannsburg) is full of spectacular colours. Depending on the weather and the time of day, the colour of the Western MacDonnell Ranges can change from purple to red.

Mission Days

Artists love to capture the Western Arrernte country's unique landscape with its white trunked Ghost Gums.

This work is by the artist Otto Pareroutja. His work was influenced by Albert Namatjira (1902-1959). Namatjira founded the Hermannsburg School of Watercolour painters.

Describe the patterns that Pareroutja has used to paint the mountains in the background.

Look for the following details in the painting

- the Ghost Gum in the foreground
- the water source in the middleground
- the dead branches on the Ghost Gum

Which direction is the sun shining from?
How do you know?



Otto Pareroutja
Western Arrernte 1914-1973
Ghost Gum, James Range c. 1955
watercolour
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
The Joseph Brown Collection. Presented through
the NGV Foundation by Dr Joseph Brown AO OBE,
Honorary Life Benefactor, 2004
© Otto Pareroutja/Licensed by VISCOPY,
Australia (Accession Number2004.252)



Photography: Otto Tschirn Collection, circa 1915-17

Lutheran missionary Carl Strehlow learnt to speak the Western Arrernte language. In 1904 he published a book which included 100 German hymns translated into the Western Arrernte language. Click on this link to listen to Ntaria Ladies Choir singing hymns in their language.

<http://datab.us/Bo36JIUSAkw>



Photography: Tobias Titz

Several of the old mission buildings are still standing today, including the old church.

This is the artists Hayley Coulthard, Rona Rubuntja, Rahel Ungwanaka, Lindy Rontji and Judith Inkamala. They are members of the Hermannsburg Potters Aboriginal Corporation. They are pictured in front of the historic Hermannsburg Mission Church.





Photography: Tobias Titz

Judith Inkamala and Rona Rubuntja are seen making a model of the old church. The church means a lot to the Hermannsburg Potters.

Many of the artists grew up on the Lutheran Mission and went to church every week. Some of the artists are members of the Ntaria Ladies Choir.

Irene Mbitjana Entata

Western Arrente 1946–2014

Judith Inkamala

Western Arrente born 1948

Dawn Ngala Wheeler

Luritja/ Western Arrente born 1953

Rahel Kngwarria Ungwanaka

Western Arrente born 1943

Rona Panangka Rubuntja

Western Arrente born 1970

Mission model 2014–15

Hermannsburg, Northern Territory
earthenware

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Purchased, Victorian Foundation for

Living Australian Artists, 2015

Copyright courtesy of the artist



In her work, the late Irene Mbitjana Entata often explored her experiences of growing up on the mission in her work.

Look at this pot. (There are two more views of this pot in the next slide)

What does it tell you about the daily life on the mission when Irene lived there?

- List all of the different activities shown on the pot.

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Investigate!

Find out more about Irene Entata and her life growing up in the mission.

Start with this link

<http://education.qagoma.qld.gov.au/?p=74>

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**Hermannsburg Potters:
Indigenous Art
Football and Community**

To find out more about the Hermannsburg Potters and their work you might also be interested in looking at other resources in this package.

These include

- Explore and Create
- Look and Explore
- Bush Foods
- Making Pots
- Language

Rona Panangka Rubuntja
Western Arrernte born 1970
*The Crow (Andrew McLeod),
covered vase 2015*
Hermannsburg, Northern Territory
earthenware
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Purchased, Victorian Foundation for
Living Australian Artists, 2015
Copyright courtesy of the artist

