

GUMNUT BLING

WITH PAUL McCANN

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Who is Paul McCann?

Paul McCann is a Marrithiyel artist and designer. He was born in Darwin in the Northern Territory and grew up nearby, on Delye Country. Today Paul lives and works in Naarm (Melbourne). When Paul was a child, he used to watch his family prepare and paint on paper bark. This inspired him to make art too. He would collect colourful leaves and flowers and arrange them to look like clothes.

What does Paul make?

After Paul finished school he studied fashion design. Today he designs garments, paints, and makes jewellery. This is Paul's *Gumnut ball gown*. Look closely and you can see he has painted black markings on the dress. These marks connect him to his Country. The top is richly decorated with gumnuts painted gold. Paul loves sparkly and shiny things!

What is Paul's inspiration?

When Paul made this dress he was thinking about the glamorous clothing that film stars wore in old movies. It made Paul sad that First Nations people were not shown in these movies. He wanted to see his people wearing these beautiful clothes! So today Paul creates powerful cloaks, fancy suits and elegant ballgowns for his people to wear. He hopes his designs will inspire future First Nations people and make them proud.



Paul McCann Gumnut ball gown 2021



Hi, I'm Paul.
Now it's your turn
to make a paper
outfit using
collage.

You will need:

* Activity sheets * Scissors * Glue stick

- 1 Cut some shapes to make an outfit from the collage sheet.
- 2 Arrange the shapes on top of the silhouette.
- 3 Glue your shapes in place.
- 4 Add sparkles!

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