

ARTIST Q & A: Pedro Wonaeamirri

Who was your earliest/biggest influence artistically?

The late famous Jilamara Tiwi artist Kitty Kantilla (1928-2003) was a primary influence in my growth as an artist and taught me about painting and culture.



What media do you use and why?

I work with the traditional ochres found on the island upon fine art grounds of linen canvas and watercolour paper. I also use ironwood locally found for *tutini* pukumani (burial ritual) poles. The use of ochre is in strict keeping with traditional design/artistic techniques, and is maintained to keep culture strong.

What study have you undertaken, in art and other disciplines, and how has this contributed to your practice?

Outside of formal schooling I have undertaken studies with fine art printers (Australian Print Workshop) and have had a residency at New South Wales Art Gallery where I demonstrated Tiwi culture and my own art practice.

What is the biggest source of inspiration for your work?

My biggest source of inspiration is "my culture."

Is there a dominant message that you try to convey through painting to your audience?

The most important factor in relaying a 'dominant message' for me is to maintain my designs and ensure that they are recognised as mine by any viewer. Viewers become familiar and recognise that it is my work immediately.