

RECLAIMING CULTURE

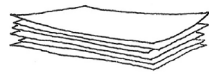
PRIMAVERA 2015

ACTIVITY

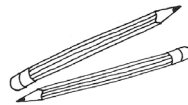
CONNECTING
WITH ARTISTS.

OVERVIEW: In her work *yilaalu* (2015), Lucy Simpson has drawn from cultural knowledge and family histories to create objects that reflect and revive her Yuwaalaraay Country and cultural practices. Explore Simpson's intention to maintain links between the past and present by considering how family history, memory and culture can be represented in objects.

YOU WILL NEED:



paper



pencils

PROCESS:

1. Draw a family tree including all the family members you know of, going back as far as you can. Add to it by including any extra details you know about your family members.
2. How has your family maintained knowledge of this history? This might include images or stories.
3. Can you think of any objects or traditions in your family that tell a story about its history and culture? What are they and how do they do this?
4. Think of a tradition your family has and design an object that represents or tells a story about this tradition. Think about what materials, forms and patterns it might include to best represent the tradition.



REFLECTION:

Show your design to someone else – either in your class or perhaps someone from your family. Without specifically knowing what it is about, what ideas does your design communicate to them?

EXTENSION:

In the *Primavera 2015* catalogue, curator Nicole Foresheew writes: “it is my view the artists share similar motives to revive, maintain, recall and strengthen culture, to repatriate what has been taken...” (p. 35). Choose an artwork or artworks by another artist whose work also addresses these ideas (Fiona Foley is a good example). Supported by additional research, write a short essay responding to the work, exploring how it relates to reclaiming, maintaining and strengthening history and culture.