

Painting: Exploring and developing art These pages have some ideas for you to think about when you are planning and making your painting.

Resources: What you might use

| Books | Magazines | Art Exhibitions |
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| Other artists at your art centre | Trainer | Internet / Video/TV |
| Art Centre Manager | Drawing or Design books | Cultural designs or stories |
| Museum Collections | Rules for protecting your rights | Marketing Information and plans |

IMPORTANT: be aware of all your rights

There are special laws to protect yours and your community's designs, ideas, writing, stories and arts. These laws say that **intellectual property, moral rights and copyright** from your arts, stories and ideas **belong to you**. Sometimes, you may agree to let other people use some of them.

If you do, they must give you a contract with a list of what they will use, how it will look or sound, why they are using it, how long for and what fee you will be paid. Your art centre manager can help you with the contract and manage the fee for you. Your art centre will need to have:

- protocols for the adaptation of work by others : **This protects the moral right.**
- extent to which the work may be used: **This protects the copyright.**
- procedures for seeking permission to use the work of others, including systems for the administration of copyright: **Your art centre can do this for you, and so can other organizations. This includes making a contract.**

The contract describes all of your rights, and everything that you agree to being used. It includes the fees and a timeframe for how long the agreement is in place. You and your art centre manager might want to check things through with Arts Law centre: <http://www.artslaw.com.au/Indigenous/> or Phone them: 1800 221 457.

Tools and Techniques

Before you start painting you can get ideas about how other people have used their art skills, and about how paintings can be made.

Find out what techniques you could use. This depends on some of these questions:

- What sort of painting studio do you have access to?
- What paints will you use?
- What can you paint onto?
- What techniques and effects do you like?

You can still paint without a studio, at home or outside. You can paint onto linen, canvas or other cloth, wood, metal sheet, ceramics etc.

Find out more about these techniques by doing some research on the internet, or through a library, or by asking other artists or your trainer to show you some.

Trying things out helps to find your own expressive marks and also it shows you have enough knowledge to improvise – to try your own ideas in your own way.

Research

Do research for your art by looking into other people's art work. Maybe your art centre has a collection of paintings that people have done? That is one place to begin. If you can go onto the internet, you can look at paintings by artists from all over the world and from lots of other art centres. Research might include:

- seeking out information in books, journals, newspapers.
- visiting exhibitions, museums, galleries.
- experimenting with materials and techniques.
- trying and testing ideas.
- attending lectures and talks.
- approaching individuals with relevant expertise.

You might make drawings, write words or tell you trainer, mentor, manager, or friend about what you have seen, what you liked, why you liked it, and how you might use the idea. Talking about your art and the art you see from other people is a good way to explore your ideas.

Write down or tell others what your new ideas are about, so that you can remember later on, when you start to make your own design.

Your research might include asking at galleries to see what is selling well. How much does it sell for? What sizes, colour, shapes, designs, language groups or artists sell well in various places. It is a big market place and understanding the right way to sell your work can take some time and some careful planning.

Your research might also include looking at a color wheel to decide what tones, tints, hues and colour you will use.

Concept

The idea you have, the feeling or the image that guides your design can be called your concept. This can be in your own mind and may be guided by:

- the subject matter or theme of your art. Perhaps it's about the body, identity, land and place, politics, culture, social issues, or spiritual concerns.
- where the work fits in relation to other artists around you, your history, your art making.
- the vision of the image: its colour, form and design.

It helps to make some drawings and notes. That way you get more ideas of how to make your print in layers, colour, textures, lines and shapes – before you begin.

Developing the concept

Working your concept into a painting might include:

- no change to the first drawings or vision in your mind.
- changing things you drew in response to the kind of techniques you will use.
- changing the techniques or the concept all together.
- changing the vision of the image: its colour, form and design.

Body of Works - contex

When you make your art, it sits within a 'body' of works. That might be all your painting from years of art making. It also might be how your art centre sits within the art centre's body of work. It might even be within the tradition of Australian art.

Knowing what 'body' of work surrounds yours, relates closely to it, or shares similarities with it, means you can tell somebody else its context. This context might be about history, or culture, Aboriginality, language or place. It might be about politics. Talk to other people about the context of your work and think about how your research has added to placing your work in this context.