

The Past Present and the Future Dreaming

This painting is about the Past, way back in the Dreaming when Aboriginal people of Australia dreamed of dreams and they saw where their people were going into the future. The old people, especially the men, saw the good and bad in everything and hoped for good in everything for their people. The old men relied on the voices in nature for guidance and protection as it was their custom to ask their Spirit of their ancestors to see them through the good times and the bad times. Their ancestral spirit was Bulurru who was the Great Spirit of the waters and the sea, the mountains and the land they walked upon.

There were also Damarri and Gulliyulla, who in the dreamtime was associated with the seasons and the moiety system, the wet rain season and the hot weather.

The Djabugay people travelled down from the mountain ranges, visiting the coast to hunt for sea food and also to catch up with relatives and sharing the food they gathered with them.

When the white man came, it was the very first time the Hunter Gatherer saw the white skins and they thought they were ghost. It was a new beginning to a new way of life for the Djabugay people. Western way of the white man became the Djabugay way of life on mission reserve and their language, rituals and customs slowly lost their importance in the daily life of the djabugay people and their children.

Other parts of the country where people lived lost some of their culture, such as the Islanders of the Torres Strait, had been affected by the English man invasion of their country. Today indigenous people have hope for the future in what they believe and maintained over the years of enslavement and taught by them by the old people. Today the people of this land hope for a better future. The flags of the people of this country are seen everywhere around Australia, giving the message of the people in hope, "Yes we can live side by side in harmony and in reconciliation".

This painting also is about Aboriginal artist around Australia and the talent in our people and that culture is not lost but alive and it continues to send the message from "the Past, the Present to the future Dreaming."

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