

### Aboriginal Designs from M&S Textiles Australia

"Aboriginal Art is one of the more ancient traditional arts in the world, going back approximately 50,000 years. In early days, Aboriginals did cave painting, rock painting, and sand or ground painting. The newer generations use acrylic paints on canvas to portray their Dreamtime. These Aboriginal artworks are sought after not only in Australia but worldwide. According to Aboriginal mythology, Dreamtime is the era when the world was dark. There was nothing on earth; the soil was soft. This was when the forefathers sprang up from underneath the soil and started building most of the requirements for their needs and that of future generations. They built mountains, rivers, waterholes, trees, and light gardens.

Dreamtime is not a religion or a culture – it is a way or philosophy of living. Body painting, corroboree, men's business, women's business, and other cultural practices are strictly obeyed by the Aboriginal people. Initially a nomadic people, Aboriginals collected their food from nature, by hunting and gathering. However, they never do anything to board or spoil the nature of their environment. They honour their ancestral lands and the teachings from those ancestors.

Art has always been a medium to express, communicate, empathize and reciprocate. That is why art is often has the power to move you, resonate and can even be cathartic. What we now perceive as art stems from our own primitive communication formats, especially the native Australian Aboriginals. Their primitive lifestyles have allowed them to successfully hand down this archaic language even to this generation. And this unaltered art, still captures and sparks curiosity in any audience. With every painting comes a new story, a story about the artist, an insight in the simple life, an effortless manifestation of their fears, frustrations and desires.

M&S Textiles have had the privilege to work with these creative artists in making their stories heard. Selecting designs yearly from our artist, is always challenging, with versatility in their art, the colours and more importantly their stories. We, at M&S Textiles, value the artists need and how they want to be perceived. In combining their memorizing with art along with quality fabrics, we are able to immortalize their stories and allow our customers to be voices of the stories that comes from the land under."

#### AKUNA DREAMING BY AGNES RUBUNTJA

Agnes Rubuntja is a skilled Aboriginal designer. She learnt much of the artwork from her father, who was a good artist as well as a respected community leader. Her colour combinations of the petals and flowers are excellent.

When she was young, Agnes used to collect bush tuckers. She travelled around nearby bush and waterholes for swimming, to get bush tucker. She was always interested in painting and worked hard to become a good artist. In this artwork, she beautifully highlighted about the water. The dots resemble waterholes and the lines in between them resemble snakes. Snakes are guarding the water in the waterholes so that no one can spoil or steal the water. People give respect and talk to the snakes regarding their requirement for water. There is a connection between guarding snakes and people.

#### WINTER SPIRITS BY FAYE OLIVER

Faye Oliver is an experienced and well established artist. She worked at Keringke Art Centre for about six years, as an assistant art co-ordinator. Through her works, she tries to bring harmony in the community. We can see an expression of modesty in her works. She believes in trust and peace in the community.

In Dreamtime, there weren't many people or living beings such as animals, birds etc. Every being used to understand each other's language and they didn't know of death. However, one day, a little bird fell from a tree and broke its neck, paralysing its body. The elderly knowledgeable birds and animals announced that the spirits have taken the bird from the world to get a new bird. Although everybody accepted this idea, they wanted to confirm this by watching the bird. The caterpillars volunteered to do so. The elderly ordered the caterpillars to watch the bird from clouds in the sky throughout the winter. One fine early day of the spring, the caterpillars transformed into butterflies and returned to the camp with beautiful bodies. Since then, the caterpillars spend the winters in cocoons to transform into butterflies, a wonderful gift of nature. In this design, Faye depicted the spirits watching over the Dreamtime creatures from the sky. She also depicted the bush and camp with beautiful and vibrant winter colours.

#### SPIRIT PLACE BY BERNADENE WALLACE

Bernadene Wallace is a well-known Aboriginal designer. She worked in Karingka Art Gallery for a period. She is the daughter of Kathy Wallace. Kathy is an excellent artist. Bernadene learnt artwork and dreaming from her mother and grandmother.

Bernadene depicted the corroboree ground. In all the tribal gatherings, many people gather around to celebrate corroboree. Her artworks beautifully depict men, women and children attending the corroboree. They often discuss religion, friendships and other social matters. All the attendees are destined to maintain pious dignity of corroboree. Nobody is allowed to break the social law.

There are plenty of bush foods for everybody. Lot of social and communal discussions take place in corroboree. The circles in dots depict that people are deeply involved in discussions setting around the waterholes. The over-shape semicircles are indicating pathways to travel. Small circles in middle depict fruit trees.

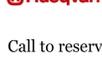
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**Upcoming Classes**

**Saturday, May 14**

- Color Love (2) 10am-12pm
- Driver's Ed for Sewing Machines 1-3pm
- Foot Frenzy 1pm

**Tuesday, May 17**

- Quilting Bee 9am-1pm

**Wednesday, May 18**

- Sewphisticates (5) 1-3pm

**Saturday, May 21**

- Adult Sewing Basics 10am-12pm
- Free Motion - Stars, Hearts & Cursive 1-3pm

**Friday, May 27**

- Late Night with Mary 6-10:30pm

**Saturday, May 28**

- One Block Wonder (3) 1-3pm

**Monday, May 30**

- Closed for Memorial Day

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