



Workbook

# MENAGERIE

22 December 2012 to 2 March 2014

## ***Djirringama (Echidna), 2008***

Penny Milingu Wanapuyngu

Pandanus fibre, paperbark, wood and acrylic paint  
23 x 25 x 55cm  
Photo © Australian Museum



### **Looking**

Why do you think Penny finds her materials in her country, rather than purchasing them?

If you were to touch an echidna, how would it feel?

What materials has Penny used to create the echidna's spikes, beak and legs?

Draw *Djirringama (Echidna)* and concentrate on showing the pattern and texture.

### **Discovering**

Find out about dying fabric using natural dyes. What plants are used and how is the colour extracted?

Which natural history museum has the echidna as its logo?

Visit the 'Hands-On' room in the Australian Museum or another natural history museum near you and feel the echidna's quills.

### **Making**

Find an activity or craft that you learnt from your family and teach it to someone else.

Make a poster for an exhibition on Australian native animals and use Penny's *Djirringama (Echidna)* as the key image.

## ***Echidna, 2006***

Garth Lena

Mango, wood and porcelain  
38 x 47 x 50cm  
Photo © Australian Museum



### **Looking**

Draw the echidna paying special attention to the quills.

What techniques has Garth used to make his echidna?

Which parts of the echidna express ideas about the fragile nature of animals?

Compare Garth's *Echidna* with others in the exhibition or maybe with a real one.

### **Discovering**

What can happen to native animals in their natural habitats and in urban environments that threaten their survival?

Read the story of Pugsley the Short-beaked Echidna that lives at Taronga Zoo.

<http://zoo.nsw.gov.au/taronga-zoo/education/our-education-animals/pugsley.aspx>

### **Making**

Create a ceramic work based on the shape of a natural formation in your environment.

Make a family of echidnas from clay or found materials.

## Camp Dogs, group of five, 2008

Lena Yarinkura

Pandanus fibre, wood and ochre  
Dimensions variable, largest 104cm  
Photo © Australian Museum



### Looking

Draw one of Lena's dogs using a continuous line. Don't take your pencil off the paper.

Using a view finder draw a section of your favourite dog.

Draw one of the dogs close up and reproduce the texture and pattern in the work.

See if you can tell which dog is which!  
Give them names.

How does Lena create a feeling of movement and animation in her work?

How does Lena apply the paint or ochres to her work?

### Discovering

Where can you find ochres and how are they used?

Describe the colours of ochre. What do the colours remind you of?

### Making

Write a story about your pet or favourite animal. Use your drawings from the exhibition visit to illustrate it.

Create a poem about a naughty dog and use your drawings from the exhibition visit as a starting point.

Compare Lena's dogs with another camp dog from the exhibition by Craig Koomeeta.

## Hammerhead Shark Headdress, 2009

Ken Thaiday Snr

Mixed media  
100 x 85 x 64cm  
Photo © Australian Museum



### Looking

Why is Ken's headdress called a machine?

Draw a section of the headdress.

List the materials used in the headdress.

Look at the colours in this work. How are they different from the colours used in other works in this exhibition?

### Discovering

Find out more about *Hammerhead Shark Headdress*, 2009 by visiting this fun site from the National Gallery of Australia called *Mystery Object*

[http://www.nma.gov.au/kidz/learn\\_and\\_play/torres/](http://www.nma.gov.au/kidz/learn_and_play/torres/)

Learn more about Ken Thaiday, his art making techniques and ceremonial dancing by visiting the Queensland Art Gallery site.

[http://www.visualarts.qld.gov.au/content/thaiday\\_home.asp?name=Thaiday\\_home](http://www.visualarts.qld.gov.au/content/thaiday_home.asp?name=Thaiday_home)

Think about traditional dances from other cultures. Does your family come from a culture with a traditional dance? What do the performers or dancers wear? Write a list of instructions for the dance so others can join in.

### Making

Create a headdress from found objects or natural materials. The headdress could be based on an animal or be suitable for a particular event.

## ***Sgraffito Owl, 2008***

Rahel Kngwarria Ungwanaka

Terracotta, white engobe, with incised decoration  
33 x 16 x 20cm  
Photo © Australian Museum



## ***Jurrukukuni (Owl), group of three, 2008***

Patrick Freddy Puruntatameri

Ironwood and ochre  
Left to right: 55 x 13 x 13cm, 55 x 15 x 15cm and 63 x 16 x 16cm  
Photo © Australian Museum



### **Looking**

What do we associate with owls?

Draw the patterns on Rahel's pot. How do the pot and lid relate to each other?

Sketch *Sgraffito Owl* pot and use shading to make your drawing look three dimensional.

### **Looking**

Create designs inspired by those you can see on the owls.

What tools do you think Patrick Freddy Puruntatameri used to make his *Jurrukukuni*?

Compare the owls by Rahel and Patrick Freddy. What are the similarities and differences?

Which is your favourite and why?

### **Discovering**

Visit the official Hermannsburg Potters website and look at the pots and processes involved in making them.

How are the pots made? Describe the process.

What other animals are portrayed on the pots?  
What scenes have the potters painted on their work?

<http://www.hermannsburgpotters.com.au/main.html>

### **Discovering**

Find out about the Tiwi Islands. Where are they located? What are the two islands that make up the Tiwi Islands?

Look at Tiwi design from Bathurst Island at the following website.

<http://www.tiwidesign.com/>

Discover more about owls at the Australian Museum site.

<http://australianmuseum.net.au/barn-owl/>

### **Making**

Create a coil or a pinch pot with a sculpture of an animal on the outside or on the lid.

Create your own pattern based on an owl suitable for a ceramic piece or a fabric print.

### **Making**

Create your own artworks using old combs to achieve similar results to that of a pwata.

Write a story about these three owls. Illustrate with pattern and shapes.

## ***Pondi (Murray River Cod), 2009***

Yvonne Koolmatrie

Sedge grass, river rushes  
18 x 69 x 121cm  
Photo © Australian Museum



## ***Looking Forward, Looking Back, 2009***

Treahna Hamm

Mixed media  
34 x 13 x 84cm  
Photo © Australian Museum



### **Looking**

Look closely at Yvonne's *Pondi (Murray River Cod)* and describe the technique she used to make it.

Draw the *Pondi (Murray River Cod)* making sure you include the lines created by the weaving technique.

Sketch a close up section of this work to show the 'bundled coil' technique that Yvonne uses.

### **Looking**

What is Treahna trying to tell us about the Murray River in this work?

Why did Treahna title the sculpture *Looking Forward Looking Back*?

How does the poem by Treahna relate to the sculpture?

List the materials used in this work.

### **Discovering**

Flinders University Art Museum held an exhibition about the Murray Cod. Visit this website to see photographs and artworks and read stories about this important fish.

**[http://www.flinders.edu.au/artmuseum/documents/Mc\\_edkit-lowres.pdf](http://www.flinders.edu.au/artmuseum/documents/Mc_edkit-lowres.pdf)**

Watch the movie *Storm Boy* to get an idea of what the Coorong looks like.

### **Discovering**

Research current environmental issues that the Murray/Darling river system faces.

Today, the Murray Cod is on the endangered species list. How could we help the survival of this fish?

### **Making**

Make a ceramic fish platter using the coil technique. Base the shape of the platter on Yvonne's *Pondi (Murray River Cod)*.

### **Making**

Make an animal using recycled materials and found objects located in your school.

Create a poster using the sculptures by Yvonne and Treahna to raise awareness of the problems facing the Murray River.

## **Ngirntaka Ngunytju Palunyalu and Tjitji (mother and baby goannas), 2008**

Jean Burke

Minarri grass, raffia

Mother 38 x 56 x 144cm, Baby 17 x 28 x 84cm

Photo © Australian Museum



## **Tinka (Sand Goanna), 2007**

Niningka Lewis

River red gum

57 x 7.5 x 7.5cm

Photo © Australian Museum



### **Looking**

Imagine you were the artist who made this work. How would you have gone about making these goannas?

How has Jean created a feeling of power and strength in her goannas?

### **Looking**

Draw the pattern on Niningka's sand goannas.

Compare the goannas by Niningka Lewis and Jean Bourke. What parts of the goanna have these artists chosen to concentrate on when representing goannas?

List the things that you have learned about the behaviour of goannas by looking at the sculptures by Niningka and Jean.

### **Discovering**

How did Indigenous people traditionally collect food? What type of food did the women gather and what animals did the men hunt? What were the traditional tools for hunting and collecting food?

Visit the Tjanpi website and find out about this group of women weavers that Jean belonged to.

<http://www.tjanpi.com.au/>

What is the meaning of the word Tjanpi?

Look at the *Tjanpi Toyota, 2005*. Describe the work and find out which prize this work was awarded.

[http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/philanthropy/case\\_studies/case\\_study\\_items/tjanpi\\_desert\\_weavers](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/philanthropy/case_studies/case_study_items/tjanpi_desert_weavers)

### **Discovering**

Visit the Australian Museum website and listen to the story told by Aunty Beryl Carmichael.

<http://australianmuseum.net.au/movie/koockard>

### **Making**

Visit Aboriginal chef, Mark Olive's website and cook your own bushtucker!

Find an artwork that incorporates a story about native food or bush tucker. Describe the work and write down the story.

### **Making**

Look at closely at your pet at home or view a documentary of an animal. Record some of their different behaviours. Create a series of small drawings or clay sculptures that capture the animal or bird engaged in different activities.

## Golden Orb Spider on Web, 2004

Badger Bates

Metal (rusted cast-iron bed ornamentation and springs)  
24 x 118 x 113cm  
Photo © Australian Museum



## I'm a Widow by Choice, 2008

Laurie Nilsen

Barbed wire, steel and enamel paint  
140 x 160 x 50cm  
Photo © Australian Museum



### Looking

Pretend you are the exhibition curator or organiser and write a label for this work.

Draw the work using 'spidery' lines.

What makes this work so unusual and different?

### Looking

Why has Laurie called the work *I'm a Widow by Choice*?

Why has he made his sculpture so large?  
How does this make you feel?

How does the display of the spider add to the mood of the work?

### Discovering

Visit the Australian Museum online and look at the section on spiders. Research an aspect of spiders that interests you.

<http://australianmuseum.net.au/spiders>

How do natural history museums display their spider collections? What can you learn about spiders by seeing them in a museum?

Read *The Story of the Falling Star* by Elsie Jones. This book is a retelling and recreation of a very old Paakantji story.

### Discovering

Think about fables or stories that have a spider in them. How are they represented?

How do most people react when they see a spider? Why do they react like that?

What is a widow?

Why has Laurie called this work *I'm a Widow by Choice*?

### Making

Take photographs or draw some images of spider webs around your school or home.

### Making

Compose a poem about a spider and write it in the shape of a web.



## Aherre (Kangaroos), pair, 2008

Johnny Young

Cooper wire and steel  
30 x 47 x 96cm and 47 x 23 x 86cm  
Photo © Australian Museum



## Red, White and Blue, 2008

Danie Mellor

Mixed media  
Dimensions variable, tallest 105cm  
Photo © Australian Museum



### Looking

Draw one or more of Johnny Young's sculptures using a continuous line. Use a pencil, biro or coloured pencil.

Imagine what these kangaroos have been doing. Write some dialogue between them.

Compare Johnny's *Aherre (Kangaroos)* to Danie Mellor's group of kangaroos.

### Looking

Danie Mellor's work is filled with symbols. Can you find them? Look at the colours and materials he uses. What could they mean?

Why has Mellor used the symbols of *see no evil, hear no evil and speak no evil*?

### Discovering

Some of Johnny Young's works are referred to as 'Bush Toys'. Are they really bush toys? Why would they be given that title? Why would young people have made bush toys?

Discuss what makes a toy precious? Is it the materials that they are made from or the memories associated with them?

### Discovering

*Red, White and Blue* resembles a diorama. What is a diorama and where would you find one?

What has replaced the diorama today in many museums?

Look at the short video on Danie Mellor and discover about his ways of working and the different types of materials he uses.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/video/2008/06/23/2282463.htm>

### Making

Make your own 'bush' toy using strands of craft wire.

### Making

Draw an Australian animal and create a collage using pieces of coloured paper.

Create your own diorama using both found and made objects. Paint or project the background from a computer.



## **Gubuka (Stingrays), 2008**

Dennis Nona

Bronze and aluminium with pearl shell inlay  
106 x 88 x 82cm  
Photo © Australian Museum



## **Stingrays, group of seven, 2008**

Frewa Bardaluna

Pandanus fibre and wood  
Dimensions variable, longest 146cm  
Photo © Australian Museum



### **Looking**

Look at *Gubuka (Stingrays)*, 2008. Why has Dennis decided to use metal to portray his stingrays?

Draw the work and explain how Dennis expresses the way stingrays move through the water.

Create your own design based on the detail in these stingrays.

Why do you think that Dennis has joined his stingrays together?

### **Looking**

Draw the stingrays in the exhibition. Have them floating around the page.

How are they displayed? Why have they been displayed this way?

Think of other ways they might be shown.

Compare the stingrays by Dennis Nona with Frewa Bardaluna's. Think about the material, colour, patterns and how movement has been achieved.

### **Discovering**

Find a map of the Torres Strait Islands and locate Badu Island.

What does the map tell you about the way of life of the Torres Strait Islanders?

How do stingrays move?

What do they eat?

### **Discovering**

Look at this website and find works by other artists who use fibre.

<http://www.maningrida.com/>

### **Making**

Make a stingray from cardboard covered in thick aluminium foil and emboss a pattern on it using a spoon handle or chopstick.

### **Making**

Make a stingray from wire and some pantyhose or stockings. Decorate it with paint.

## Hella, 2009

Vicki West

Mixed media

55 x 34 x 78cm

Photo © Australian Museum



### Looking

What materials has Vicki used to make this work?

What techniques has she used to construct *Hella*?

Why has Vicki made the Devil's snout so red?

### Making

Create a multimedia campaign to highlight the plight of the Tasmanian Devil.

### Discovering

View the film on the following website before visiting the exhibition.

**<http://www.tassiedevilappeal.org/tda/landing.php>**

What are the problems faced by the Tasmanian Devil?

Help the Tassie Devil by visiting this site.  
Organise a collection at your school.

**<http://www.tassiedevilappeal.org/tda/landing.php>**

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**THE MENAGERIE EDUCATION KIT HAS BEEN PRODUCED BY  
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## Australian Museum

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Open daily 9.30 am – 5.00 pm

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