

Child's drawing

1991.0024.1995



Child's drawing

Description

This artwork is one of a series of some 3383 drawings and paintings on paper made between 1975-1977 by Aboriginal children from 70 schools across Australia.

These artworks were collected by the Aboriginal Arts Board for potential use in 'The Aboriginal Children's History of Australia: Written and Illustrated by Australia's Aboriginal Children'. The book was published by Rigby, Adelaide in 1977.

According to Robert Edwards, then Director of the Aboriginal Arts Board, the idea for collecting these Aboriginal Children's drawings evolved during a 1975 flight to Canberra. Serendipitously, Edwards sat next to Edward J. McGrath Jr, Director of the Hawaiian publishing firm, Island Heritage Limited.

McGrath asked Edwards 'What do you do?' On hearing about the Aboriginal Arts Board's work with Australian Aboriginal communities, McGrath explained that he was publishing a series of Children's histories from different nations throughout the world. He produced from his briefcase a copy of 'A Child's History of Hawaii' and an exchange of ideas for a history book by Aboriginal children ensued.

Edwards recalls that the flight was fortuitous, as he had been thinking about how to link Indigenous children into the Aboriginal Arts Board's art programs. Children's art seemed an obvious way of involving children, especially if the project could be organised through the school system.

A project to produce Children's artworks for a history book authored by Aboriginal children was subsequently proposed to the Aboriginal Arts Board, who approved and implemented the project in 1976.

Michael Gray was responsible for researching and coordinating the project, which incorporated 70 participating Aboriginal schools from all parts of Australia except Victoria and the Torres Strait.

The Aboriginal Arts Board transferred the collection of artworks to the National Museum of Australia in 1991.

Physical description

Paint on paper. Green landscape with planes above. Includes information sheet. Artist: Lapalung. Location: Milingimbi School, NT. Title: Plane crashing into mangroves WWII.

Object information

What

Type	Drawings
Collection	Aboriginal Arts Board collection no. 2
Dimensions	L 560mm x W 380mm x D 0.5mm
Material	Paint - non specific. Paper

Who

Artist	Associated organisation
Lapalung	Milingimbi School

Where

[Milingimbi, Central Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, Australia](#) □

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