

Kimberley Artist's Statement ANKA Regional General Meeting

'Art Centres are only for art, that's what I've been told. But in Aboriginal way you can't separate language, dance, song, country, story and traditional knowledge from art. Everything connects, art cannot stand-alone, that's the thing we really have to fight for'.

Gabriel Nodea: Chairman Warmun Art Centre, Deputy Chairman ANKA, 10.10.12

We are sharing and teaching our art and culture for the younger generation, for the community, for Australia and for the rest of the world.

Restoring and recording art and culture and teaching younger people about who they are and where they come from is important. It's not just about painting and making money.

We want government and funding bodies to understand and acknowledge that art and traditional culture must stand together.

Traditional knowledge has been passed down from generation to generation and if that stops it will be lost to the world. We want to use modern technology to keep and protect this knowledge.

Elders take the young people who grew up in the towns back to country to those special places, sharing the knowledge of their identity through their culture and reconnecting through multi-media. This is Aboriginal education and this is our school. This teaching is also important for non-Indigenous people when we share our history and stories with them.

That painting we do represents country, dancing and story. We also share this with non-Aboriginal people.

You don't get strong art without strong culture. We would like the government and the funding bodies to understand that stronger and ongoing support, for all of this together, is needed now and into the future.