

Artist Activities

Animal portrait prints with Angelina Pwerle



Angelina Pwerle, *not titled*, 1990 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, purchased 1991, Gordon Darling Australasian Print Fund 1991 © the artist

Angelina Pwerle was born in 1946 and lives and works in Camel Camp, Urapuntja/Utopia. Like many of the women artists from Utopia, Angelina first become known for producing art in the Indonesian technique of batik in 1986, and then once canvas and acrylic paint was introduced to her community, in paintings and prints.



Image left: Angelina Pwerle, *not titled*, 1990 National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, purchased 1991, Gordon Darling Australasian Print Fund 1991 © the artist

Camel Camp is one of about twenty communities in Utopia, which spans over 1800 square kilometres of desert country north of Alice Springs, NT, and the main language groups are the Eastern Anmetyarre and Alyawarre. Camel Camp has a Dreaming about the Bush Plum, *Arnwekety* in the Anmetyerre language, a nutritious fruit painted by women artists. It is a story for Arlparra Country, Angelina's Country, which she often depicts in vibrant colours.

In *not titled 1990*, Angelina depicts the story of the *Analpenty* Spirits painted up for Women's Ceremony in a multi-layer print. The *Analpenty* Spirits sing the *Awalye* (Ceremony) to you when you are sleeping. Like the *Arnwekety* Dreaming, it is the story of her Country.

Print your own animal portrait

Some important ancestors of the Utopia area are the *arnkerrth* (mountain devil lizard), *arnkerr* (emu), and *aherr* (kangaroo).

What is an animal you feel strongly connected to, or think is special, to create a relief print of? Do they have any unique qualities you could highlight in colours or symbols?

We are creating a multi-layer relief print of the *arnkerr* (emu). The emu is the second largest bird in the world and can run up to 50 kms per hour. Uniquely, it has two sets of eyelids, one for blinking and the other for keeping the dust out!



You will need:

- A4 paper
- Sheet of foam
- A dull pencil
- A drawing or print of an animal portrait
- 3 x coloured paints and a roller or paintbrush
- Scissors



Step 1.

Starting with a print or drawing of an animal portrait, use a dull pencil or blunt tool to trace the outline only onto your foam. Repeat to create a dramatic outline.

Step 2.

Remove your portrait and coat your foam with one of the coloured paints. We used orange to represent a red desert. Press your foam onto your paper to create a print and leave to dry.

Step 3.

Clean your foam and cut your foam drawing along the outline. Then, trace the fine details like eyes, mouth, and any hair or feathers.

Step 4.

Coat your foam with another colour of paint and press to print over the top of your first impression. Leave to dry.

Step 5.

Now, pick a unique feature of your portrait to highlight. We picked the emus amazing eyes. Cut out to create a stamp, coat with your third paint, and press to print this onto your portrait.

