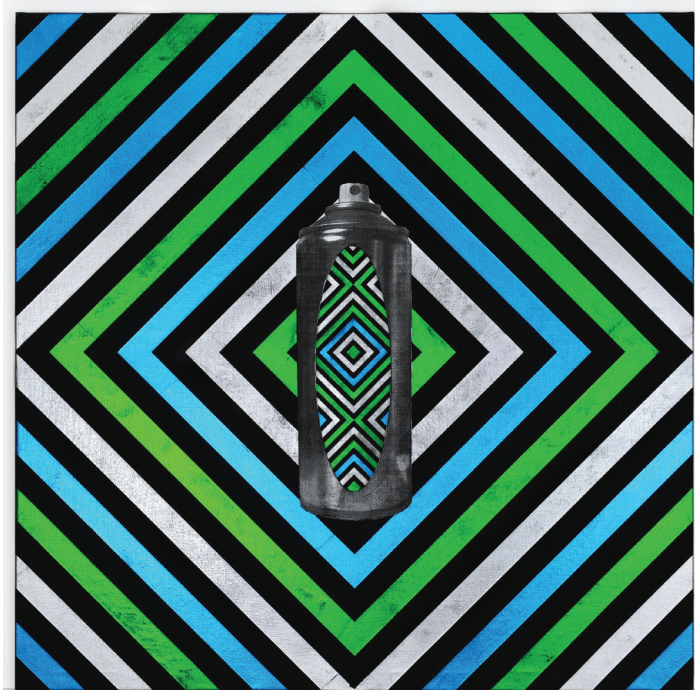


# Artist Activities

Send a message with Reko Rennie

What is a  
Message  
stick?



Reko Rennie is an artist based in Victoria with connections to the Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay/Gummaroi Peoples of north western New South Wales. The distinctive diamond pattern was originally used by the Kamilaroi people, and other First Nations groups to signpost their country in northern NSW and Southern Queensland. Rennie's work draws upon Kamilaroi symbology merged with street art expressions, to explore issues of identity, justice, and place in urban contexts.

"Message stick (Green)" contains neon and hyper colour metallic foils in the signature Kamilaroi diamond shape, inspired by the bright colours that ignite the Australian city night scene. Overlaid with a spray paint can, Rennie explores the idea that spray cans are modern and important devices for communicating a message.

Many Aboriginal Nations carried message sticks over long distances to give to neighbouring clans as a way of communicating important messages or safe passage while traveling through another clans Country. Today, many Aboriginal people practice this tradition as a formal gesture of respect to forge lasting relationships.

*'In the past, it was a real struggle for Aboriginal people to be vocal and talk about issues, and people were victimised for it. Now we can have all this power through art, and have a voice; that's important not just for this generation, but for all the others that have fought before us.'*

Recko Renno

How do you share what's important to you?



## Let's create your message

Responding to Rennie's artwork "Message stick (Green)" think about your own way to tell or share a graffiti style message. your message could encompass shapes or symbols that relate to your cultural background or personal experiences. Think about a message you would like to share with the world, a family member, or your friends.

### Materials you need:

- Coloured paper
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Stickers
- Stick glue
- Coloured foil paper



### Step 1.

Begin by thinking or drawing your ideas for a message on paper. You may wish to sketch first or dive straight in.

### Step 2.

You may like to draw your own shapes or symbols and cut them out and arrange them as you wish.

### Step 3.

Think of the ways you wish to express your message through colour, imagery, stickers, or arrangement. Be as creative and expressive as you can.

### Step 4.

To keep your artwork in place, glue your pieces and place them as you desire ... there you have it! You've created your own visual message stick.



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