

TRANSCRIPT

ACCESSIBLE LEARNING WITH RONA PANANGKA RUBUNTJA

This is a transcript of the video featured in the Accessible Learning with Rona Panangka Rubuntja resource. You can view the video [here](#).

- 00:00:21 Hello, I'm Amy and I'm a teacher at the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, which is sometimes also called the NGV for short.
- 00:00:33 The NGV is a great place to visit with your family and friends or even with your school. There's lots of art to see in the gallery. But there are also lots of spots to relax. Like our lovely garden, the Great Hall and the many benches and seats in the gallery.
- 00:01:00 It's nice to take a break when you're looking at art.
- 00:01:05 Speaking of art, today we're going to take a look at an artwork made by an artist named Rona Panangka Rubuntja.
- 00:01:17 Here's Rona. She's right on the end.
- 00:01:22 Rona was born in 1970. She lives and works in a place called Hermannsburg. Hermannsburg is a small community in the Northern Territory of Australia. Let's have a look at where it is on this map.
- 00:01:43 Here it is. Wow. It's almost right in the middle of Australia, in the desert. It must get pretty hot and pretty cold in Hermannsburg.
- 00:01:58 But it's also very beautiful. Look at the colours in the landscape. What a bright blue sky. The water looks clear and fresh, doesn't it?
- 00:02:16 No wonder the artists from this place make art about their home.
- 00:02:22 Rona and the other Hermannsburg Potters are a group of artists who are famous for making colourful terracotta pots.
- 00:02:31 Terracotta is a kind of reddish-brown clay. Have you ever used it before? It's soft and squishy and feels a little bit like playdough.
- 00:02:50 Unlike playdough though, when you make an object out of clay, you can put it into a special oven called a kiln, and it will harden and last a very long time.
- 00:03:04 You can use clay to make lots of useful objects like vases and cups or more decorative things like models or small statues.
- 00:03:17 Here are some of the artists in their Hermannsburg studio. A studio is a place where artists make their work. Studios often have a lot of art equipment, tables and chairs and can be a place where it's okay to be messy.

- 00:03:37 The studio in this picture is where the artists make their terracotta pots. The pots are decorated with paintings that show clues and information about the artists' culture, where they live and things that are important to them.
- 00:03:57 Now that we know a bit about the artist, Rona, and the Hermannsburg Potters, let's look closely at Rona's pot and see what stories or information we can discover.
- 00:04:11 Have a close look and see what you notice.
- 00:04:21 When I first look at this artwork, I can see that the pot has two main parts, a big body, and a very interesting lid.
- 00:04:34 First, let's have a look at the painting that Rona has made on the body of the pot. Let's see if we can work out what is happening in this painting.
- 00:04:55 It looks like this might be a game of Aussie football or AFL. There are players scattered around the field and lots of people watching the game in the background.
- 00:05:10 Do you recognise the teams playing on the field? There's red, black and white for St Kilda. And black and white for Collingwood.
- 00:05:24 The Hermannsburg Potters love the AFL. They look very excited and happy for their team, don't they?
- 00:05:40 Do you like AFL? I wonder if you have a favorite team that you go for.
- 00:05:49 Now there's a lot of detail in the painting on the pot, but let's see if we can focus on the main part. We call this the focal point. It's usually the most important part of the artwork that the artist wants us to look at. It's the bit that gives us a lot of the important information.
- 00:06:15 What or who is the focal point in this painting, do you think?
- 00:06:24 I'm thinking it might be this AFL player. I wonder if you agree. I think he's the focal point because he's the biggest player on the field. It looks like he's closer to us than the other players in the distance. And we can see the details on his face more clearly.
- 00:06:49 And if we look at the lid on the top of the pot, here he is again. He must be important if he's in the artwork twice.
- 00:07:00 So who do you think he is, I wonder? His name is Nicky Winmar. He's an Aboriginal footy player who used to play for St Kilda.
- 00:07:12 Did you know there's actually more to this work than just Rona's love for AFL? This artwork is about a big and important thing that happened in real life on the footy field.
- 00:07:34 One day, during a match in 1993, where St Kilda was playing against Collingwood, Nicky Winmar heard people in the crowd booing him and yelling mean and nasty things, things about him being an Aboriginal man.
- 00:07:54 Comments like these are an example of something called racism. Racism is when someone is targeted because of their race or culture, which includes where they are from or what their beliefs are, or even the colour of their skin.
- 00:08:13 Racist comments are hurtful and can make people feel really bad for lots of different reasons.
- 00:08:21 When Nicky Winmar heard the racist comments coming from the crowd, he did something that shocked everyone.

- 00:08:36 When the game finished and his team, St Kilda, won by 22 points, Nicky lifted up his jersey to show everyone in the crowd his dark coloured skin. He pointed to his chest to make sure everyone could see that he is an Aboriginal man and proud of it.
- 00:09:00 He said confidently to the crowd, 'I am black and I am proud of it!'
- 00:09:07 It became a famous moment in AFL history and very important for Aboriginal people across Australia.
- 00:09:20 It makes a lot of sense why Rona chose Nicky Winmar as the focal point for this pot. She's proud of Nicky and proud of her culture too.
- 00:09:31 Feeling proud of yourself can mean you feel really good about who you are and what you can do.
- 00:09:39 You might feel proud after achieving a goal. Or just feel proud all the time because you like the person that you are, and you're not embarrassed to be you.
- 00:09:51 This is how Nicky Winmar felt that day on the football field and lots of other times as well.
- 00:09:58 I wonder if you have ever felt proud of yourself before. What did it feel like? Think about how it felt in your body to be proud.
- 00:10:10 I know when I feel proud of myself, I feel happy and I feel strong. My smile is wide and I stand tall with my head held high. What a great feeling to have about yourself.
- 00:10:26 So let's think more about why Rona decided to make this artwork. Do you have any thoughts about why she might have made it?
- 00:10:38 You might be thinking she made it because she loves AFL. Or maybe because she feels happy seeing fellow Aboriginal people playing AFL, the highest level of footy in Australia.
- 00:10:54 It might also be because the story of Nicky Winmar made Rona feel proud to be an Aboriginal person too. So, for her it's an important story to tell other people.
- 00:11:12 Nicky was proud of being black, even though the crowd was saying mean, racist things.
- 00:11:20 Rona might be trying to remind people that racism is hurtful and horrible, and that everyone should be kind to each other.
- 00:11:32 Rona's way of telling a story is through her art. And by making this pot she can share Nicky Winmar's story with other people just like you and me.
- 00:11:49 Think about what's important to you. What kind of story would you like to tell through your art? As an artist, you can make art that tells a story about anything.
- 00:12:05 Family and friends or a special memory. Or even a favourite place. There might even be a time in your life that you felt really good and proud of yourself. Just like how Nicky Winmar felt. You could make an artwork about that.
- 00:12:28 When we look closely at art, we can learn things about the artist that created the artwork and be inspired by their story and the messages in their art.
- 00:12:45 What did you learn when you slowed down to look carefully at Rona Panangka Rubuntja's artwork about Nicky Winmar?

- 00:12:59 I learned that the Hermannsburg Potters make art about things they love and things that are important to them.
- 00:13:14 I also learned that racism happens when someone is made fun of because of their culture, which includes where they are from or what their beliefs are, or even the colour of their skin.
- 00:13:29 But when Aboriginal AFL player Nicky Winmar heard nasty, racist comments on the footy field, he showed everyone he was proud of his dark skin and Aboriginal culture.
- 00:13:46 And finally, I learned that artists like Rona can tell stories like the story of Nicky Winmar through their art. And we can all do the same. We can all make art that tells our own stories.
- 00:14:06 Thank you for joining me today, and I hope you enjoyed learning about this beautiful pot and the inspiring artist who created it.
- See you next time.