

SYMBOLS AND ICONOGRAPHY

Aboriginal dot paintings tell stories using simple symbols that come together in special ways. For example, a U shape might mean a man, and circles show a waterhole—so if a man is next to circles, the story might be about him calling rain. The dots themselves can stand for stars or sparks, and making these paintings takes a lot of time and focus because the artists carefully place thousands of dots to show their connection to the land and its stories.

