

SONG-STORY INTRO - GENERAL

New project: new view, new arts, new life

The Yolngu are traditional indigenous peoples from the NT , northern australia

NTHG project title:

Australian Indigenous oral histories, stories, song-lines

Summary:

To present a short series of Yolngu oral histories and story 'song-lines' for inclusion in NT arts archiving

To assist expanding the concept of public history archiving so as to include more of our indigenous culture as essential resource .. and thence encourage more people to become aware of its presence and meaning

To model new archival techniques that promote better (mainstream) understanding of traditional culture from its own inherent 'energy and breadth of view' perspective - whilst maintaining the intention of the originating material

We would like to re-imagine the ways we portray traditional indigenous culture in mainstream life .. and to do this by modelling a short series of ceremonial songs and song-line 'history stories' in new ways

Yolngu world view is big and inclusive; its languages are song, dance, painting, ceremony, rites of passage, relationship, story telling .. many (more) aspects of life are engaged

It is complex and is usually difficult (for mainstream) to 'approach' in usual 'literal language terms' .. but the spirit and energy lying at the heart of culture - and driving the dance - may well be able to be better portrayed using different arts-methods

We would like to bring more of this 'wholistic' essence into public view .. and the development and public presentation of such models form the base of this project

UNIQUE IN TELLING NT HISTORY

Yolngu 'history' and living stories were (and are) all transmitted orally - and often in 'song'; songs of instruction, knowledge, story and ceremony, living, of finding food and water, finding one's way thru' country .. all using song as a mnemonic aid

Songs may be quite complex, often onomatopaeic .. waak waak ~ black crow, gumung ~ magpie goose, garraborok ~ magpie

Yolngu 'song-lines' are, at essence, history stories; current Yolngu 'song-lines' exist that include the euro settler story, in context - along with the many other influences and ideas

experienced over the ages - these being ever 'updated'

We, living within the 'settler story' (generally) don't see this as being just one of many (world) views; we tend to think that our particular (materialist-only world) view is the only one possible .. and what we most often mean by life, science and resource are all limited to just the physical aspects - and the stuff we can use (up!) for our own perceived physical benefit

Our greatest resource though is our human conscious mind .. simply because it is not physical - and hence, is not limited in the same ways .. we can imagine, can dream, and

can collectively reveal all kinds of 'mediations, relationships, even 'solutions' .. when combining 'existing' ideas in a process of creating new (beneficial) views

The NT is uniquely placed to do something different in coming to terms with new emerging world views .. it is relatively isolated (from usual citified fuss) and also has access to the most remarkable human knowledge system still available on the planet - one thru' which we could all come to benefit thru' understanding it better

Old culture here represents our greatest 'arts resource' .. what it offers could most likely 'open' all kinds of hitherto unimagined qualities and possibilities - for all peoples and for the planet