

FIVE THINGS TO LOOK FOR

when buying ethical Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art

Whether you're buying from an art centre, a gallery, a dealer, an auction house or an art fair, this checklist is a useful guide to help you buy authentically and ethically.

1. ARTIST'S NAME, ART CENTRE (OR COMMUNITY) AND ARTWORK CATALOGUE NUMBER

clearly marked on the artwork, often on the back or sides.



2. AUTHENTICATION DOCUMENTATION

on art centre or gallery letterhead that is compliant with the Indigenous Art Code. It should include a photo of the artwork, details of the artist and catalogue number.



3. COPYRIGHT AND INDIGENOUS CULTURAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

for the artist, for his or her artwork and for cultural content.



4. ETHICAL GALLERY OR DEALER

– someone prepared to answer any questions you may have about provenance, authenticity and their business relationship with artist or art centre.



5. TRANSPARENT PRICING.

Ethical pricing usually means fixed pricing with a fixed percentage going to the art centre and/or artist.



No checklist can be a guarantee of authenticity and ethical behaviours so also use your intuition - particularly if the dealer or gallery is evasive about their relationship with the artist or art centre.

Making sure you buy ethically is not just about protecting your own investment, it's about respect for the world's oldest living culture, ensuring the artists and those around them are paid fairly and securing a sustainable future for Australia's Indigenous art industry.

For more information visit indigenousartcode.org

