

UMI Arts Fact Sheet

Indigenous Art Code

Introduction to the Code

In 2007 the development of a commercial code of conduct was central to the recommendations of a Senate Inquiry report: *Indigenous art – Securing the Future*.

The Indigenous Art Code (the Code) was developed in the first instance by the National Association for the Visual Arts (NAVA) and then by the Australia Council for the Arts, who worked closely with an Industry Alliance Group made up of artists, Indigenous art centres, commercial art galleries, public art galleries, auction houses and visual arts peak bodies; including the Association of Northern, Kimberley and Arnhem Aboriginal Artists, Umi Arts, Ananguku Arts, Desart, Australian Commercial Galleries Association, NAVA and the Australian Indigenous Art Trade Association.

What is the Code?

The Indigenous Art Code is a system to preserve and promote *ethical trading* in Indigenous art.

The Code supports the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists to negotiate fair terms for their work and gives buyers greater certainty about an artwork's origin.

Dealers who are Code signatories have agreed to comply with the Code's ethical standards in their dealings with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Artists and with art buyers. They may display the Code logo and apply Code certificates to artworks to demonstrate this commitment.

While the Code is voluntary it has been developed by the industry and has a robust legal framework to enforce *ethical standards*.

The Code has a close working relationship with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) which has the power to investigate complaints involving breaches of the law. The Code also investigates complaints involving non-Code members.

UMI Arts is a Code Signatory and complies with the Indigenous Art Codes ethical standards in all dealings with UMI Arts Member Artists.