



Art for arts' sake

Kathy Burns

Barkly Regional Arts, NT

We are the dirt road travellers, quite literally sweating for the arts in the dry and dusty heat, enabling the transfer of the cultural practice and knowledge of a living culture. Knowledge that is held within the artwork, the music, the dances, the storytelling, and the making of artefacts. Indigenous culture is rich and unique and if it is diminished or lost so too will be the heart of Indigenous peoples: a sense of purpose lost, disconnection and obvious repercussions to their health. Our stories of creating art amidst areas of dysfunction and chaos show how arts for arts' sake is invaluable towards creating healthy people and societies.