

Encountering

ORAL CULTURE THROUGH MARK-MAKING

22-23-24 September 2026 in Arezzo, Italy

Monica Dengo, Peta Wanjunagalin, Robyn Thompson

Rosy Boa Gallery - Arezzo, Italy



The workshop **Encountering Oral Cultures through Mark-Making** is dedicated to the relationship between memory, mark-making, and storytelling in Latin culture and in the Mariku culture, an indigenous people of Australia. It originates within a broader project aimed at creating a documentary about the friendship and collaboration between Peta Wanjunagalin, Robyn Thompson, and Monica Dengo, and about the work they have been carrying out for years around making marks, weaving stories, and the ways in which cultures construct and transmit memory.

The workshop proposes an experiential journey that brings writing, mark-making, orality, and listening into dialogue, moving through different cultural practices without attempting to reduce them to a common language, but allowing them to resonate within the shared space of the group.

This event is organized in collaboration with Ethnos film - see <https://ethnosfilm.tv> - and Rosy Boa Gallery - see <https://rosyboa.sumupstore.com>

Memory and Transmission

In Latin culture, the preservation of memory has historically been entrusted to the book and to writing—tools of order, archiving, and continuity. Among Mariku, an indigenous peoples of Australia, memory has instead been passed down through an ancient and still-living oral culture, also supported by signs and symbols that do not fix the story, but accompany it, activate it, and set it back into circulation.

The workshop brings these two approaches into conversation not in opposition, but through mutual listening, questioning the ways in which the mark can function as gesture, relationship, and passage.

The Working Process

Over the two and half days of the workshop, participants will take part in a Mariku Yarning Circle, a versatile cultural gathering that can be used as a meeting space, forum & traditional classroom. This will be conducted & guided by Peta and Robyn. They will use the Yubbi Yarning Circle model. The Yubbi was initially developed to help indigenous communities recover stories that have been interrupted or silenced.



Monica Dengo will guide the group through exercises in automatic writing and mark-making, understood not as expressive techniques but as listening practices: tools for suspending control and allowing what moves between word, body, and memory to emerge.

Peta Wanjunagalin is a Mariku of Gamilroi descent & **Robyn Thompson** is Second Nations South-East Australian, of Irish and Scottish ancestors. **The Yubbi Yarning Circle** will touch on topics such as interconnectedness, songlines, tribality, decolonization, dreaming, spirituality & introduce Mariku symbology with its use in the



construction of meaning, showing how the mark can become map, orientation, and connection.

Participants will create personal maps and a collective map and songline that will connect Italy, Australia, and the different places of origin of the group, creating a shared symbolic space.

Yubbi Experience

Within the context of the Yubbi Yarning Circle, Yubbi should be understood as a relational word, linked more to an experience than to a definition. It evokes ideas such as connection, finding one another again, being together, mending relationships, and bringing stories back into the circle.

Since we will be working both with the concept of the book and with oral culture, at the end of the workshop participants will share what they have produced and create “shared memory capsules.”

Interview

Monica Dengo interview to Peta Wanjunagalin and Robyn Thompson:

[Link](#)

DATES

Tuesday September 22, from 2:30pm to 5:30pm

Wednesday September 23, from 10am to 1pm and from 2:30pm to

5:30pm
Thursday September 24, from 10am to 1pm and from 2:30pm to 5:30pm

FEE

€. 350 (threehundredfifty) + €.15 to subscribe to mega+mega, the association that hosts the workshop. Deposit of €.200 by March 15th, 2026. Deposit is non-refundable.

PARTICIPANTS

Maximum 12 participants. Registration will be accepted in order of request, subject to availability.

LOCATION

The workshop will take place at the Rosy Boa gallery, located in the historic center of Arezzo.

Galleria Rosy Boa, Via Cisalpino 29, Arezzo

RECORDINGS

Students will be required to sign a release form authorizing the recording of all workshop activities, which will become part of a documentary.

REGISTRATION

For information, contact Monica Dengo: ciao@monicadengo.com

CREDITS

Cover Design:

'Wyeebulbah'

by Yulawirri (aka Peta Wanjunagalin) 2024

Page 2:

'Peta Wanjunagalin chalking Miyaay Miyaay'

Picture taken by Bungungully Bunjil 2025

Page 3:

'Homelands'

by Ralph Rogers & Bungungully Bunjil 1989

Page 4:

1. 'Mya'

by Yulawirri 2024

2. 'Wahn '

by Yulawirri 2024

3. 'Wirriil Barrii Dinewanku '

by Yulawirri 2022

4. 'Ngurrara '

by Yulawirri 2021

5. 'Robyn's Yubbi Yarning Circle Story '

by Robyn Thompson 2024



Monica Dengo



Robin Thompson



Peta Wanjunagalin