

PROPOSED CHRONOLOGY OF KIMBERLEY REGION, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, ROCK ART.

By Dr. David M. Welch. August 1992. (Handout for 2nd AURA Congress, Cairns.)

ARCHAIC PERIOD

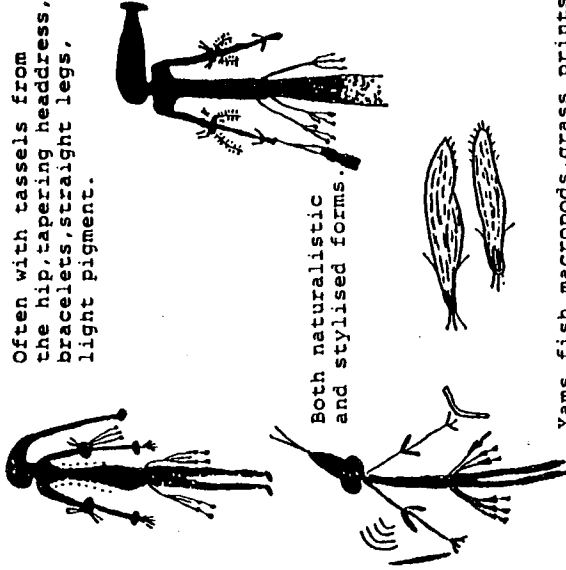
Pecked and abraded hollows on vertical rock faces.



Petroglyphs: figurative and non-figurative. ? Early paintings.

PERIOD OF "TASSELLED FIGURES"

Often with tassels from the hip, tapering headdress, bracelets, straight legs, light pigment.



Both naturalistic and stylised forms.

Yams, fish, macropods, grass prints, hand stencils, large and small figures. →

PERIOD OF "BENT KNEE FIGURES"

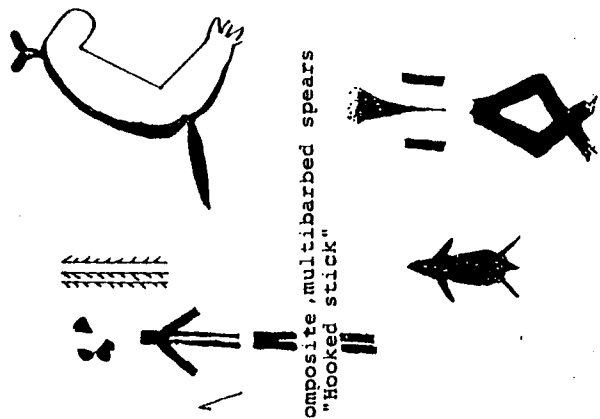
One style with thick forearms

Often with upper arm projection (like an epaulet), knobbed headdress, skirt/bag from waist/bags, possible fly-whisk, boomerangs, no spear, dark (mulberry) pigment.



Bichrome form

PERIOD OF "FIGURES WITH STRAIGHT PARTS AND MISSING PIGMENT"



Composite, multibarbed spears "Hooked stick"

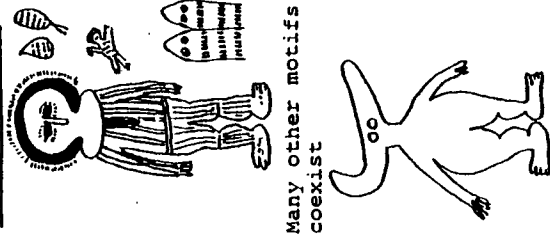
Animals with body cavities

Thylacine

A diverse range of paintings coexist

Female Figures

WANDJINA PERIOD

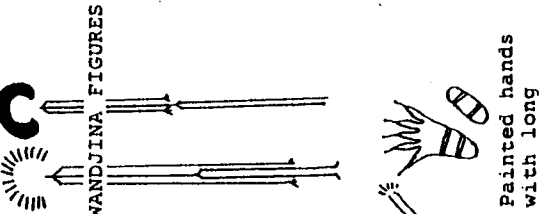


Many other motifs coexist

BANJO

Hand stencils, Charcoal drawings, Mud paintings

CONTACT PERIOD



"PARALLEL LINE FIGURES"

PRE-WANDJINA FIGURES

Painted hands with long fingernails

Other Mythological Figures