



Making Color

Ochres





Ochres



- Earth pigments containing iron oxides
- Multiple colors: red, yellow, green, white, black
- Cheap, easy to prepare, chemically inert, good light-fastness
 - Grind, leave in jar with water and shake, skim off residue, filter several times
- Needs binder: colorless vehicle that suspends pigment and acts as glue (sap, egg, oil)



**El Castillo, Spain.
The Red-Ochre Disk or
Large Dot
below the hand stencils is
dated
39,000 BCE. The hand
stencils are
dated to c.37,300 BCE.**



Celtic Book of Kells, 8th-9th c.
Reds and yellows from red ochre

Ochre mine, Australia



Rover Thomas





Canning Stock Route, 1989

Rover Thomas, ochre and natural binders on canvas

The spiral form in this painting is a waterhole on the Canning Stock Route where cattle stopped to drink on their way south to Wiluna. It is possibly Kunawarritji (Well 33), where the young Rover was picked up by drovers in the 1940s.

Holmes à Court Collection.



Blood on the Ground, Wells 33–41, 2007

Clifford Brooks, Birriliburu Artists, Tjukurba Gallery, acrylic on linen

Clifford's father, Charlie Brooks, was away travelling when Rover was taken by drovers. When Charlie returned and found Rover gone, he went looking for him. On this journey he encountered a horrible scene somewhere near Well 41:

[My father] went looking for his young brother Rover back in his home Country, but nothing, empty. No track. Only track was wagon wheel and yawarta [horse] and bullock, that's all He been get up on a sandhill and he been look down whitefella, massacre. They been get shot: [Aboriginal] men, women and children.

Ronnie Tjampitjinpa-All that big rain coming from topside

