



Vincent Namatjira *Unknown soliders*

Aboriginal soldiers' contribution to the Australian armed forces is often overlooked. A lot of young Aboriginal men fought overseas to protect this country despite not being respected or recognised as citizens. Through these paintings, Vincent is drawing our attention to this overlooked piece of Australian history. Why do you think that Vincent used camouflage material?

These portraits are not of specific soldiers but rather a symbolic representation of different photos of Aboriginal Servicemen that he found in his research at the Australian War Memorial. The works are a tribute to the "unknown soldier" and all Indigenous soldiers and the eternal contract Aboriginal people have to protect their Country.

The artist also included a self-portrait – a choice Vincent made as he wanted to better understand the mindset of Indigenous soldiers. Which painting do you think is the self-portrait? How do you think he feels?

- **FIND** an artwork made by an Indigenous artist who served in the army. Where did they serve? How are they protecting their Country now?