

# Aboriginal Artist Collection

**ARTIST** Maria Watson-Trudgett

**ARTWORK** People, Place, Community



## ARTWORK STORY

Nginhagu, is a word from Wiradjuri language, meaning 'belonging too'. My artworks tells a story about cultural identity and belonging, and the importance of people, place, and community.

My paintings express my connections to my Aboriginal culture, in contemporary expressions of now! I am a proud Koori woman of the Wiradjuri people from the Central West of NSW. I am a storyteller and self- taught artist and I have been painting and exhibiting for more than a decade.

Painting quietens my mind and supports me connect with my Culture, Country, and Ancestors. Painting strengthens my Aboriginal identity and creates a sense of belonging to 'people and place'.

My painting style is a contemporary fusion of abstract and Aboriginal art, using groups of symbols as a way of narrating a story and preserving cultural traditions. It is the way our people have passed on information for thousands of years.

I am passionate about sharing my art, with an intention of positively influencing people's attitudes and awareness of Australia's First Nations people and our rich diverse cultures. I have created many commissioned artworks for private collectors and corporate organisations, both national and international.

