

# Aboriginal Artist Collection

**ARTIST** Maria Watson-Trudgett

**ARTWORK** Message Sticks Blue



## ARTWORK STORY

Dharrang is a word from Wiradjuri language, meaning message stick.

‘Message sticks’ were used as a traditional way of communication.

Message sticks were transmitted between different communities across the massive landscape of Australia. Messages communicated may have included announcements of ceremonies, invitations to meetings, corroborees, or marriages.

In many cases, message sticks were objects that granted its carrier a safe passage and entry into the lands of other mobs, and on some occasions, the sticks were burnt after the message was received, to keep some business confidential.

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.



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