

# Aboriginal Artist Collection



**ARTIST** Maria Watson-Trudgett

**ARTWORK** Bila Bunbanha

## ARTWORK STORY

Bila Bunbanha are traditional Wiradyuri words meaning river and moving. My artwork depicts the rivers of my Country, and the movement of the rivers as they flow throughout Country.

I am a proud Koori woman of Wiradyuri people. Painting quietens my mind, preserves my cultural traditions and strengthens my Aboriginal identity.

My artworks are grounded in lived experience, cultural meaning and inspired by my connections to Country.

My painting style is a contemporary fusion of abstract art and iconography, which is Aboriginal symbols. I use flowing lines and groups of symbols, to narrate my stories. These movements echo the way my old people shared stories with me, while drawing flowing impressions and symbols into the ground. I sometimes use dots to narrate a story.

Symbols I use reflect my Country landscape, including mountains, hills, rivers, waterholes, significant sites and meeting places.

People, the seasons and sky, gathering food, animal tracks and much more.

I have created many commissioned artworks for corporate and private collectors, both national and international.

