Marion’s Story

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Ta’meka Cummings
Acrylic on canvas, 2026

Ta'meka Cummings combines traditional and contemporary Aboriginal symbolism within a free, asymmetrical composition to interpret Dr. Marion Kickett's story.

Reflecting on the work, she says:

"I wanted to reconnect with York through this project and dedicate a piece to that place - it's home. I remember the river as being so vibrant, and I wanted the painting to be just as vibrant as Nan Marion's stories. Listening to her childhood memories was a wonderful experience. I liked the idea of showing Nan Marion and her Aunty washing the plants in the river then coming from the Reserve, so that’s the big circle, the Reserve.
I was really drawn to the way her family lived and what they had to do to survive. The river was such an important place—for food, for life, for gathering.

I also looked at images of York and was inspired by its beautiful plants and landscape.
I knew I had to incorporate the yellows and oranges of the country into the painting.
Painting has been part of my life since I was a child. Both of my parents are Aboriginal artists and gave me a deep connection to culture. I believe that, whether you're Indigenous or not, painting reveals your essence to the world.

As a teenager I was inspired by Vincent van Gogh, and through this project I've found that same inspiration in Nan Marion. She's carrying the torch, and I want to follow behind her.

As an Aboriginal artist, I don't believe I have to limit myself to what people think Aboriginal art should look like. It is so much more than contemporary or traditional dot painting."