



Teaching Artist Statement

Marcelle Riley*Who am I?*

My name is **Marcelle Riley**. I am a woman born on Yued country in the town of Moora, and I now live in Wilmen (Narrogin) in the WA wheatbelt. I grew up in Ballardong country, Pingelly.

I learnt about Noongar culture from my own journey, talking with Elders and sharing stories, to learn about my ancestors, country, culture and language. To find my connection to place.

I love to travel, seeing country and meeting people, making my art and connecting to country. I also love my doll making and collecting dolls from around the world.

Being Noongar

My Noongar name is Bibilok (Paper Bark girl).

Being Noongar means everything - my culture, family, language, my whole world and my identity. It's who and where I am connected to.

I'm on a journey finding out who I am. My connection to Country and to my culture and language is very important to me.



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Country/Boodja

Connection to Country is our belonging, we care for country, we don't own country, country owns us. In our hearts it's very sacred, we are the caretakers

Everything about country is very important. Following nature, knowing the six seasons, what is abundant, what is to be left alone.

To make unique story dolls with eco dye, we have to know how each plant tells a story and how each season has different colours, in different places. This creates very different fabrics and textures.

Community

Community means connection to place and people – family connection, community in arts and cultural activities.

Story

Learning story is about how my people and family lived back then and connections to song and story lines, so I know my connection to place through the stories we're told, so we know how we're related to family and country. And when you visit places, you know where you're from and who you are to tell others.

Knowledge/Kaartijin

Telling story is very important so we can pass on knowledge and learning Kaartijin (knowledge) from generation to generation.

Story Dolls

A lot of people carry a lot inside of them and making a doll and putting your story into your doll makes the doll carry your yarns for you so you don't have to carry it any more. It's healing for them.

My story doll tells people – who I am, where I come from.

