David Garneau
*Red River 1870s (beaded map)*
2006
Acrylic on canvas
Courtesy of the artist

“Red River” depicts the rongs, the French river lot system that was used in the Métis Red River community in Manitoba in the 1870s. Using intricately placed dots to represent traditional Métis beadwork, Garneau maps the thin plots of land that promoted river access and neighborly relations in this Métis community before the English-Canadian square lot grid was imposed. This abstracted map serves Garneau’s mission of reimagining Métis history through contemporary imagery.

“Red River” montre le système des rongs, ces terres agricoles dans la communauté métisse de la Rivière-rouge du Manitoba des années 1870. Employant des gros points en motifs complexes pour représenter le perlage traditionnel des Métis, Garneau fait la carte des rongs qui permettaient l’accès à la rivière et favorisaient les rapports entre voisins avant le quadrillage des Anglo-Canadiens qui a été imposé ensuite. Cette carte abstraite permet à Garneau de réinventer l’histoire métisse à travers des images contemporaines.

Emily Ban ‘11
Episcopatus Hildesiensis
Johann Baptist Homann
Nuremberg, 1727
Gould Library Special Collections
Gift of Thomas L. Hughes ’47

This map of the Hildesheim region in northern Germany illustrates the 18th century land struggle between the Catholic Church and secular rulers. Homann, the map-maker, often focused on conflicted regions to maximize profits when selling his maps, in hopes that political debate would increase interest in the region, and sales of maps. Here, he presents an argument for the power of Hildesheim as the Episcopal See by emphasizing Catholic imagery and creating a sharp visual distinction between the Episcopal and secular lands. The colored territories denote those of the Bishopric. Although this is a regional map, the importance of Hildesheim itself is emphasized through the insets on the bottom. The city plan shows old town and new town, while the panoramic view displays all of the city’s churches.