

Artist Statement

I create art because it's a way for me to connect with my culture. My inspiration comes from my late grandfather, Victor Mowatt, as well as many contemporary Native artists. I try to use Northwest Coast form line in every work I accomplish. My goal as an artist is to create unique First Nations art. My work signifies the past, present and future. I take pleasure in trying to produce something that has never been done before.

My mother is Gitksan and my father is Cree. I was raised in the Gitksan tradition my whole life. Being raised by a single mother, I never had the opportunity to learn my Cree culture. While studying at Emily Carr University, I took the opportunity to research Cree artists and incorporate some Cree influences into my work. The form line is taken from my Gitksan heritage; the bright colors and black outlines are taken from my Cree heritage. By incorporating two distinct First Nations cultures, I feel that I am contributing positively to the future of First Nations art.

Drumbeats: Uniting Community

This show was made possible through an artist's grant by the First Peoples' Cultural Council. This project came from an idea to use the colouring sheets I created during the pandemic to create a series of drums. Each drum was made by people in our community and they chose a design from my free colouring pages.

I painted each of the drums to honour each person's choice and continue the amazing community building that happened across our land and across cultures during a difficult time for us all. Some proceeds of the drum sales will go back to the community to support local groups.