

a deeper look inside canadian native art

Lauralee Harris.

- Ten points I find interesting about her life
 - #1) I find very interesting the fact that all of the artists in her family all have a different look and style when it comes to art.
 - #2) The fact that she had travel so many times and was able to coop with it and use it as an advantage to learn new thing. Also that she had to move 20 times by the age of 18.
 - #3) I think that is very interesting that her husband became her muse and helped her and supported her to follow her dream, I find that very incredible and rear.
 - #4) the part of her heritage that had been hidden, Her "French" Grandfather was also Sioux, Cree, Chippewyan, Ojibwe and Montagnais.
 - #5) the fact that she is a native and that in that time being native was not the best, but instead of feeling ashamed or trying to hide it ,she in brasses it true her art.

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- **#6) Lauralee harries began to enroll in her art and made some of her exceptional works of art after her grandmother's death, and that she used her death as a good thing and not as a bad thing.**
- **#7) I find interesting how she accompanies every painting by a different poem that talks about what she illustrated on the painting.**
- **#8) She has been recognize in many different ways and has receive a lot of awards for her originality and beautiful work.**
- **#9) the fact that she has showed her art in museums in Canada and U.S.**
- **#10) the fact that she is trying to help aboriginal people by donating money to the Anishnawbe health of Toronto, because she feel that she is part of them and wants to give back to her community.**

What drives her to create such work of art.

- **Lauralee has been inspired to create her art by many different things. The 3 things that I think have the most impact in her work have been her love for nature that made her involve her self into painting on wood. Her heritage side, which reflects in her artwork as her originality and story to the paintings. Also her family that showed her different styles and that got her to travel around many places in which they entered her into art courses.**



Life supporting life



One of my favorite paintings of Lauralee Harris is her painting named life-supporting life. This painting in specific intrigued me because all the colours she uses are very earthy. Also her painting illustrates many different things that are happening and in the end all of those stories relay on each other and have to do with each other. I really like how she has all those faces and body parts come out. I thought that this painting is based in heaven and that those faces that come out are looking down on earth and the kid above is playing a trumpet to show the joy and glory of being in heaven.

But then I later learned after reading her poem, that the story that she is trying to tell is, that we all come from mother earth and we depend on her to live, and that after we die we go back to her and the process continues, always returning to mother earth. She also talks about how we are all waiting to evolution so we can go into the trunk into the skies and this is why the poem is called life-supporting life, because we are life and also the truck (mother earth) is life and we all need of each other to survive. This story is very interesting to me because she is talking about life and death as very beautiful things, and that life doesn't end after you die. I can relate to this in the way that I want to believe that after death, there is something else waiting for me and not that everything is just over.

Continuing the cycle- seed relations

Just a little seed you see
Sailing on a breeze
Is going to make a difference
Once she takes hold
of her mother

Breaking open
Grabbing hold
Reaching down and out
Stretching up and out
Into the sky
Leafing out
Is what she's about to do

But for now resting
On her outer shell
In her mother's hand
Drifting along
Waiting to sprout up on the land

I'm gonna make a difference she says

I'm a little seed that can

I'm gonna find some mother earth

And bury myself in the sand

I'm gonna make a difference you see

Just you watch me sue-seed

I've floated along and drifted

And a little piece of earth is all I need

Drifting on her mother's hand

She's shed her shell

and can hardly wait to land

But as the breeze powers her way

She never knows

Which tack the wind will go

So she sings her song:

"I'm gonna make a difference

Its time to settle down

Its time to grow up high the sky

It's time to root low

Down the ground
It's time to branch out
Drop my seeds about
Oh just you wait and see
I'm gonna make a difference
Once I nestle inside
My mother's tummy"

In the bay
Along the way
She sees her family on a hill
On turtle's back

Where it rains and shines
Her family see her coming
And wave to greet her
As she comes their way

She knows she will be
One more to wave across the land
One more to greet a floater across the way
One more to grow and give in the wind
One more to offer home to the wingeds
One more to give shade on a summer's day
One more to clear the air
One more to sprinkle seeds
And continue
And as the wind will always be her captain
The sun; her way to up
The rain; her life blood
And mother earth, always her mother
She will be
One more to wave, greet, grow, offer, give, clear, sprinkle and continue
Before melting into the mother
That nurtured her.

By: Lauralee Harris

Poem analysis

I choose this poem, because in a way it relates to all the kids that are growing up; because all we want is to be able to grow up and be successful and make a different in the world. This poem talks about the journey that a little seed had to go through in her life. Poetry and art make for a successful expressive combination, because they both express emotions and beauty. Sometimes is hard for people to understand what and artist is trying to say through their artwork and by accompanying the painting with a poem, is more easy to understand the story.

How I would describe Lauralee Harris.

- Lauralee Harris art is truly inspirational, the way she works with the grains of the wood and uses her colours to make her painting pop out and something even look like their stuff in front of them ,like for example water, is just amazing. Also her originality and imagination is breath taken. I would say is a new way of doing abstract art.

My gallery tour experience.

- The gallery that I choose is called “the Gallery of Seeing in a Sacred Manner”. This tour was very interesting; all of the paintings were very colorful. She used a lot of shades of red, purple, blues, and oranges. The paintings are very creative and original, which to me makes them even harder to understand. Without the poem I would have never figure out what she was trying to say through the paintings. I notice that most if not all of the painting had to do with nature. Overall my tour of the gallery was very interesting and mind blowing. Some of the review that I read about her are: Harris' line has a siren's song quality to it - seductive, elusive, utterly graceful., she is a profound poet, . "The symbols emerge from the darkness and begin to live with a life which is no longer our contingent life, but a life which is the essential life, the life of Art, the being of Being." Georges-Albert Aurier; The viewer's mind becomes the new landscape, the connection between worlds. This are just some of her great reviews.

What difference did she made in Canadian art.

Lauralee Harris has made many difference in Canadian art, because she is giving her own originality and aboriginal feeling by showing it through her art, also because is showing how beautiful nature is and how you can work with it and make a new technique. She has been advocate to aboriginal art and expressions by contributing to the Anishnawbe health of Toronto and by attending various boards and committees of aboriginal organizations, because she things that giving back is the right thing to do as a person.

Why she feels the need to contribute to the Anishnawbe health of Toronto.

Laura feels that she has the needs to contribute to the Anishnawbe health of Toronto because that is her heritage and its what has made her art so successful, she was aboriginal true blood and spirit, and she expressed that through her art and poems. This artist use their work to expose and address social issues by trying to make people understand through their art the goodness of the aboriginal people and the beauty of their culture. Also they are trying to show people that they want equality, same amount of power and to be heard. Thought are they one t make their community stronger and improve the aboriginals mind, body, spirit and emotions. Most of all they want to highlight issues that are relevant to the aboriginal people.

by : catalina contrears