



Kwai Kwai

Penny Christiaans was born in 1963 and grew up in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Her Indigenous Father was of the Abenaki Tribe in Swanton Vt. they are Western Abenakis. As a linguistic and geographic grouping; historically there was not a strong central authority but there were numerous smaller bands and tribes who shared many cultural traits. They came together as a post-contact community after their original tribes were decimated by colonization, disease, and warfare.

Her mother a devout Anglican French-Canadian woman. Both parents provided a historical accountability of their families of origin from residential school, extreme poverty to music, art and an unequivocal faith and love of the Creator.

As an Indigenous woman Penny has always been intrigued by culture of all the First Nations, she is also fascinated by images and how the world is represented through story. As a story teller herself her art reflects her stories but her talent and passion for art had been over shadowed by work life and single parenthood.

She is an Honors graduate in Trauma and Addictions Therapy and Energy Therapy. Her life work has been in Indigenous communities throughout Canada working in program development, advocacy, counselling and art therapy.

Penny's interest in art began when she was creating and facilitating Art Therapy Programs. She has taught Art Therapy in London ON and on Six Nations reserve of the Grand River and various Indigenous communities throughout Canada. Her art has been displayed in a private showing in London and Kintore ON, Gallery Indigena and St. Mary's Train Station gallery. Penny has been commissioned by the Dream Catchers Assoc of Canada. Her inspirations are mainly influenced by street artist, the homeless or less fortunate and un-discovered Indigenous artist such as Myles Kakegamic a young blind painter of an Northern Cree Nation. The Vermont Abenaki Artist Association has been all inspiring for her as well. The medium Penny connects with is Alcohol ink on tile, most of her paintings are framed in live edge wood produced by I WOOD BUILD and Kintore Custom Woods.