

Arlene Dozay Christmas has spent much of her life cultivating her passion for art. Growing up in Western New Brunswick on the Tobique First Nations, Dozay is the middle child of a large family. At eighteen, she left the banks of the Tobique to pursue a formal education at Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and although she had always displayed an interest in art, her intention had initially been to pursue a career in education. Dozay has created and displayed her artwork at galleries and exhibits across the Maritimes, Ontario, & the United States. She has constructed her creative career around traditional native artwork, capturing First Nations culture and heritage. Although presently possessing a successful career as an exceptional and unique artist, Dozay's focus has never been on the business aspect of her work. It is her unequivocal understanding of the spiritual aspect of traditional native artwork that has ensured that Dozay and her work are recognized and appreciated worldwide.

Shalan Joudry, an ecologist and lover of nature, draws parallels between human struggles and those that exist in the natural world. A quiet hopefulness exists at the heart of this work; stories of loss and celebration, of hardship and tenderness are medicinal in their effect and serve to reinvigorate the dream of positive social and ecological change. "Each generation must make their own / journey through a thick terrain" starts *Generations Re-merging*, a collection of poems which explores the complex tangle of intergenerational relationships and cultural issues encountered by a Mi'kmaw woman in the modern context, "where every moment / is the loss of something." Alert to the fragility of community and culture, and to the pervasive threats against the natural and social environments which have traditionally fostered them, Shalan Joudry writes with lucidity of the challenge of confronting these global issues personally on her home ground, and of honouring the hope of past generations by renewing it in the present.

Lorne Alexander Julien, from Millbrook First Nation, Mi'kmaq First Nations, Nova Scotia, specializes in original First Nations acrylic paintings. His Mi'kmaq name is "Warrior on the Hill" given to him in his youth when he learned about the spiritual way of his people. He is also a self-taught artist, beginning as a young

child. He uses bright colours and believes simplicity is beautiful. He wants to share his art work, lifting people's spirits, with ideas taken from his visions and dreams. About four years ago, Lorne began a Christian journey, wishing to honour Christ in his paintings. Eagles are his favorite subject material as they are well respected amongst his people, with the ability to fly highest toward the Creator.

Gerald Gloade is an Artist, Carver and Educator who is employed as the Program Development Officer for the Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre, an initiative begun in 1991 to protect and showcase a complex of Eleven Archaeological Sites in Debert, N.S., dating back over 13,000 years. The focus of Gerald's work is sharing the culture and heritage of "Mi'kma'ki", Land of the Mi'kmaq, and the long-standing cultural legacy of the Mi'kmaq people. As an artist and Mi'kmaw storyteller, Gerald guides the development of educational programs and visitor experiences for the Cultural Centre. His stories and interpretations have captured many audiences. This position has taken Gerald, his wife Natalie, and their 2 sons, Gerald Donovan and Kyle, on the road throughout Mi'kma'ki, revisiting the many sacred places found in the Kluskap legends. As the host of the 2010 Olympic Games, Canada showcased the artwork of our country's First Nations Peoples. Gerald was one of the Mi'kmaq artists selected to represent the Aboriginal Art from Canada's Eastern Door, at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics Aboriginal Art Pavilion in Vancouver, B.C.

Cathy Martin is an independent producer, and the first Mi'kmaq film maker from the Atlantic Region. She is a member of the Millbrook Mi'kmaq First Nation Community near Truro, Nova Scotia. She has been making award-winning documentaries about her nation since 1989, producing several films with her independently owned company, Matues Productions, and also for the National Film Board of Canada (NFB). She is the past Chairperson of the Board of Directors for Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) and served on the board since its inception in 1999. She has been part of the development of many

of the policies and programs within the Canadian Cultural and Arts Institutions to advance First Nations Artists in their respective disciplines.

Holly Meuse lives at I'sitkuk First Nation. At the present time, she is completing a Master's degree in Adult Education, with a thesis on Mi'kmaq Cultural Art. For years, she worked as a social worker, but she always had a desire to do Native Art. She has facilitated many workshops such as making hand drums, painting, deer hide rattles, Mi'kmaq peaked caps, beading, and moccasins, just to name a few. She is a self proclaimed artist with a diploma in fine arts. (**Hand Drum Making Workshop** Wed. Nov. 5 @ 4 p.m. & **Talking Stick Workshop** Thurs. Nov. 6 @ 10:30 a.m.)

Anne Nicholas was raised on Tobique First Nation. She has been doing native arts and crafts most of her life; it has been her passion for over 40 yrs. She also teaches native crafts to all ages, and her work has been displayed in schools, craft stores on different reserves. She looks forward to teaching and sharing her knowledge of native arts. (**Beading Workshops:** Wed. Nov. 5 @ 4p.m. & Thurs. Nov. 6 @ 10:30 a.m.)