

Jonathan Labillois

Biography

A member of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation Band in Gaspé Quebec, Jonathan's talent was recognized early in childhood and further nurtured by attending Dawson College Fine Art Program. He also attended the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design where he majored in print making and painting.

His art has been on display throughout Canada and is on permanent display at the Gallery of Fine Art in Halifax, NS. His cultural heritage and strong focus on his art draw together a sense of colour and style distinctive in method and view. Emphasizing aboriginal stereotypes and native art in modern culture, his art attempts to examine where native art fits into society, in addition to where a native artist fits into the art world. His larger than life depictions of indigenous peoples speak to his passion for both art and his native heritage.

Jonathan Labillois currently resides in Victoria BC, Canada where he continues to expand his body of work and subject matter.

Artist Statement

The title of the painting is "Still Dancing."

The idea for the title came from my little sister: "Dancers dance for those who cannot, the sick, the elders, and those who are gone. It's like all those women are still dancing through her."

I was overwhelmed and very humbled (and honoured) to have so many share this piece of art on Facebook. I used my friend Berta KaKinoosit as the model for this, I tried not to make it look too much like her but people recognized her anyways.

I decided to donate this to the Montreal Native Women's Shelter to raise awareness of missing and murdered women in Canada. I hoped sharing it with others would bring this issue to minds of many people, and hope that none of our sisters, mothers, aunts or daughters will ever be forgotten. Thank you.