

GOODBYE TO ROMANCE, 1996



Figure 18. *Goodbye to romance*, 1996. Plaster, flint, wood, leather, synthetic hair.

The work *Goodbye to romance* (Figure 18) reveals the tragic suicide of my brother, which occurred in the same summer that my uncle died and my sister fell ill. *Goodbye to romance* is the title of an Ozzy Osborne song which speaks about a broken heart and giving up on life. My brother wanted this song to be played at his funeral. In this work, I made a cast of a deer heart, and constructed an arrow in the traditional way with sinew and flint. I suspended the heart and arrow with a noose made out of braided synthetic hair, that connected to the ceiling in ten feet of length. The initial concept was derived from the song he had requested and a photo I saw of him as a child, holding a bow and arrow in his hand. Even though my brother died of a broken heart and devastation of the news of his HIV, I knew that his desperate loneliness and depression was post-traumatic stress due to his displacement from his family and community as a result of the Sixties Scoop. This work traveled across the country in a show entitled *Native love*, curated by the Nation to Nation art collective in Montreal.