

QUOTES FOR WEBSITE

1. HISTORY OF THE ABORIGINAL ARTISTIC NARRATIVE

For thousands of years First Nations have told their stories to document their history and to teach their values, beliefs and traditions of their culture. Stories have been told through oral accounts, legends, songs, dances, ceremonies and art. These stories communicated the experience of life and metaphors of life and it is within these stories that we learn the history and lessons of life and learn to make meaning of life itself.

2. ABORIGINAL ART PRESERVES CULTURE

Aboriginal artists have made a massive contribution towards cultural preservation over the past 10 thousand years through their creative artefacts that documented the cultural ideology of their time period. From these ancestors art we have learnt about their spiritual practices, mythology, historical events and social customs. Today, artists continue in this role, producing work that documents recent history, important historical/political events, cultural practises, social realities, and experience of co-existence in a colonized country. Their art, has preserved this cultural and historical information for generations to come.

3. TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY

My work reflects the perpetual continuum of aboriginal artistic practice throughout history. Even though my art work is defined as contemporary today, when my life has passed, my work will be defined as traditional and another contemporary artist will have taken my place, with new creative expressions congruent with their cultural realities.

4. NATURE AND THE HUMAN STORY

The metaphoric forms that evolve from my themes, are usually inspired by nature. I see poetics in nature's forms that reveal a connection to the human story. It has been my observation that the human story of life is what connects hearts and people. I see my exhibitions as an opportunity for the viewer to make a connection with the aboriginal experience, to bring understanding and perhaps make meaning in their own lives.

5. REFLECTIONS OF PLACE AND TIME

My art is a reflection of my life, of being in place and time, just as art production is essentially a mirror of the self and the self in life.

6. THE TERM 'EXPOSURE'

The definition for 'exposure,' used commonly by administrators of art institutions, really is just art jargon that translates into 'for free or cheap labour'. In other words, artists are expected to produce their work for free by absorbing all the costs of wages and materials and are expected to do so for the sake of exposure to their work.

It is an unsaid practise of employment discrimination towards artists. I suspect that art administrators would not want to do their work for free, even though their jobs give them good "exposure" of professional development for their resumes. Mary Longman, August 13, 2005