

Patricia L Smith

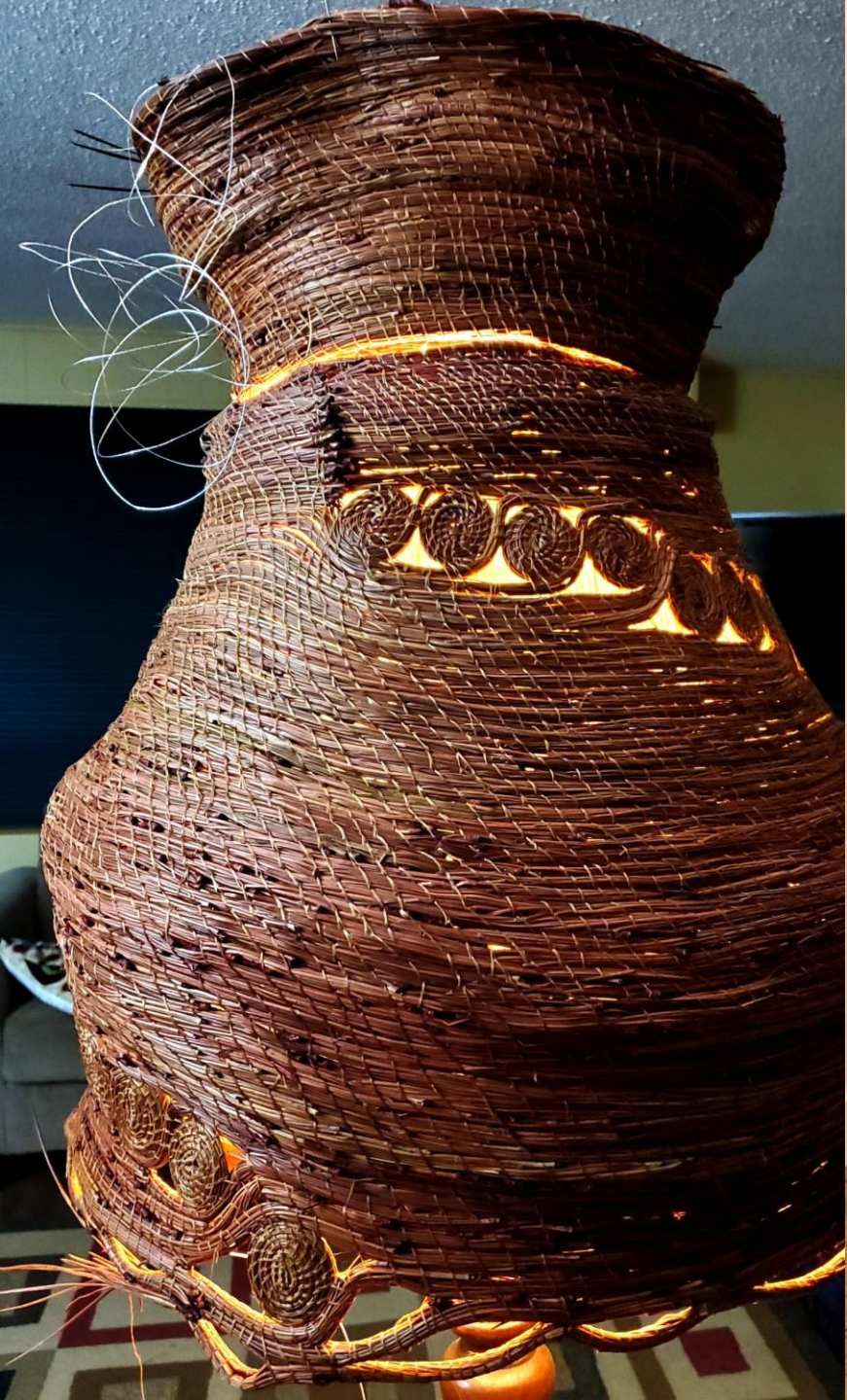
The somewhat linear, yet  
circularly overlapping  
story of this eventful, artful  
MA HRSJ journey





The 215 baskets representing the missing Le Estcwicwey, and InStead were in approx. 300 hours. Included in the TRU REDress exhibition that cohort member Karie Russell organized in 2022. Mukwa Musayett spoke at the opening; then became InStead's guardian and eventually my practicum supervisor for our arts-based research. We also co co-authored an article published in the special Allyship 2025 edition of the Canadian Social Work Review journal.





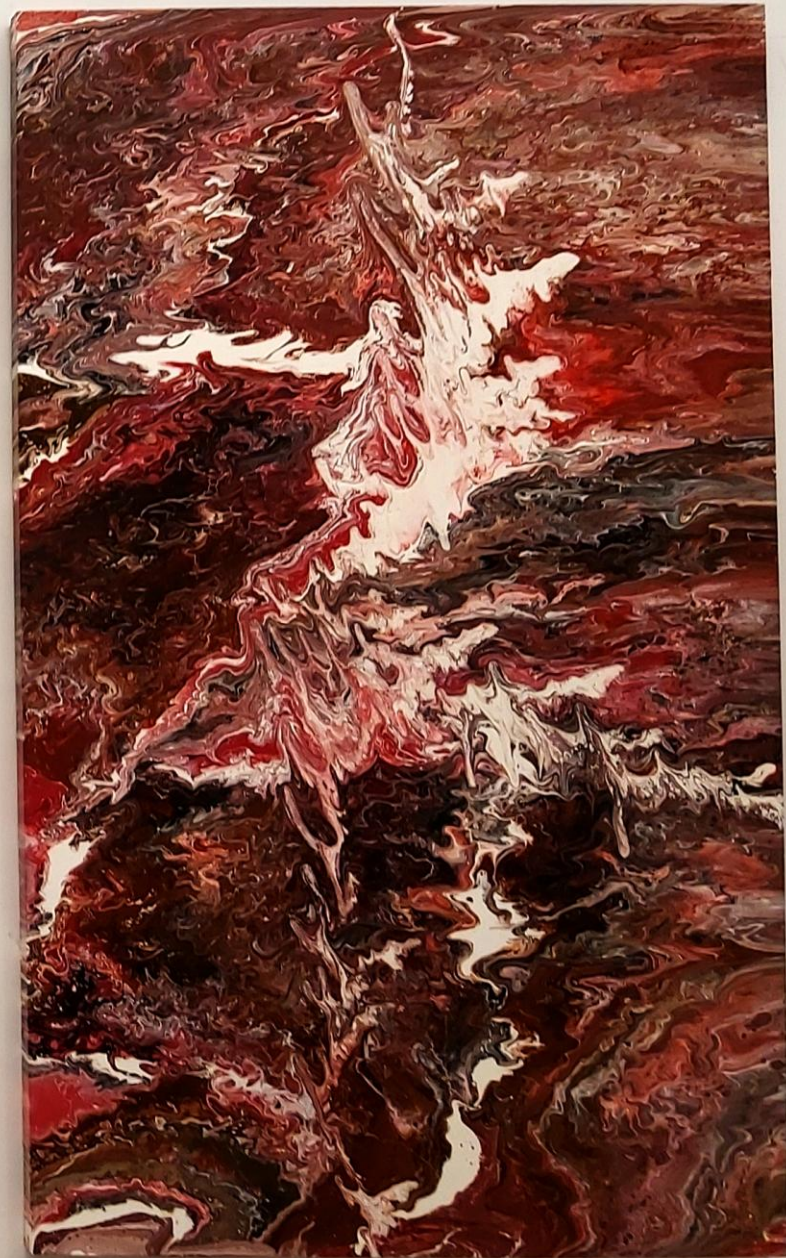
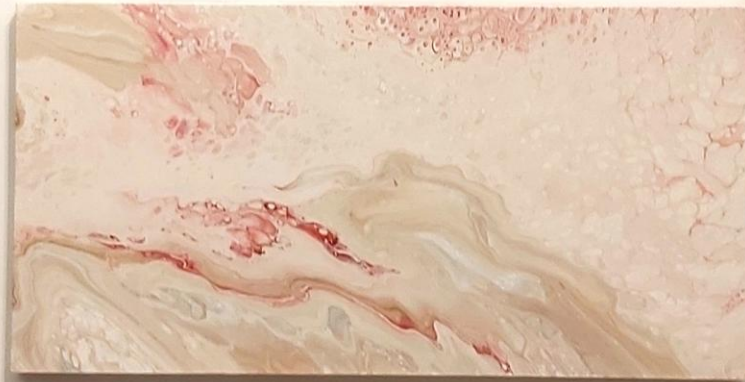


2 of my support team. Mother, represents my own (white) heritage. The handblown bead at the centre of her bodice contains a dusting of my mother's ashes.



A mixed media pour on 64x36x1.5" cradleboard - aerial maps of where the Thompson Rivers meet 'grounds' our Canadian MMIWG2S+ herstory







InSteAd guarding Le Estcwicwey.  
Mother & Little Sister

Elliott Page's documentary 'There's Something in the Water' demonstrates how contaminated environments are nearest the homes of our most marginalized citizens.

4 is a significant indigenous number (directions, world skin colours). 4 chipped & empty glasses represent Canada's oppressed 1<sup>st</sup> peoples. The 3 (Father, Son, Holy Ghost) containing water, represent the role religion played in patricolonial racism, privilege & excess.



**Access to clean water is not equitable in Canada**

*Thems that Have* mixed dry media on canvas 24x36x1.5"

OCTOBER 4, 2023  
NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION for  
Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women  
and Girls (MMIWG).  
TALKING CIRCLE  
to discuss the Calls to Justice for educators  
and all Canadians  
TRU OLD MAIN OM 1562  
930-11 am (Space for 12 people).  
CALENDAR LAUNCH and  
ORIGINAL ART DISPLAY  
TRU Art Gallery - open to the public  
Oct 4-6, 2023  
Sponsored by the TRUFA Decolonization,  
Reconciliation and Indigenization committee



Thus began 'the work' of my  
MAHRSJ studies, providing  
many enduring bonds and  
friendships.

Artistic collaboration with  
Tk'emlúps artist and  
Knowledge Keeper Mestési  
Llucmetkwe/Colleen  
Seymour continues beyond  
the scope of the original  
research (my practicum)  
and this program with the  
foundation of Sen7anse  
Melwilc = Magpie Alliance.

Hand felted dress inscribed with names of  
missing and murdered by cohort Gwen Ke



Cohort Lana Fine models her assignment protesting the drug war on people. Braided of strips of old woollen blankets and COVID masks, my carpet represents systemic racism (medical care & gifts of contaminated blankets), harms done to Mother Earth, the unacknowledged (& outright denialism of) burials of children on residential school grounds - inconvenient truths swept under our societal carpet.



# Maquette variations for Our UnSettling Canadian HerStory



Before I could thank the Honourable Marion Butler for her work as the Commissioner for the National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, she thanked me for my own work.





\$50 HONORARIA WILL BE PROVIDED TO EACH PARTICIPANT  
DINNER IS PROVIDED.

CHILD MINDING AND TRANSPORTATION WILL BE REIMBURSED WITH RECEIPTS

## RESEARCH STUDY

A Decolonizing Exploration of Anti-racist, Arts-based Responses to the Violence Described in in the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report across the Context of Higher Education.

The purpose of this study is to explore how arts-based, antiracist educational strategies can support emerging health, education and social work professionals to engage with and respond to the MMIWG Calls to Justice and community needs.

Who is invited to participate in this study?

UPTO 20 STUDENTS, FACULTY , STAFF and COMMUNITY MEMBERS INVOLVED IN EDUCATION, NURSING AND SOCIAL WORK

Date: September 16, 2024

Time: 3:30-7:30 PM

Place: TRU Campus - House of Learning Room 190

SEATING IS LIMITED to 20 PARTICIPANTS

To register on a first-come basis, and/or for more information contact

Dr. Mukwa Musayett / Shelly Johnson  
E: [sjohnson@tru.ca](mailto:sjohnson@tru.ca)



Mestési Lucmetkwe/Colleen Seymour

Resources were harvested from the land in a good way



Skwrxan is Syilx, and lives on the Tk'emlúps reserve



Visiting Mauri graduate students  
contributed before the research  
participants



# Research Day

Researcher Dr Mona Lisa Bourque Bearskin



Thompson Rivers University campuses are on the traditional lands of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (Kamloops campus) and the T'exelc (Williams Lake campus) within Secwepemc'ulucw, the traditional and unceded territory of the Secwépemc.

Our region also extends into the territories of the Stát'imc, Nlaka'pamux, Nuxalk, T'silhqot'in, Dakelh, and Syilx peoples.

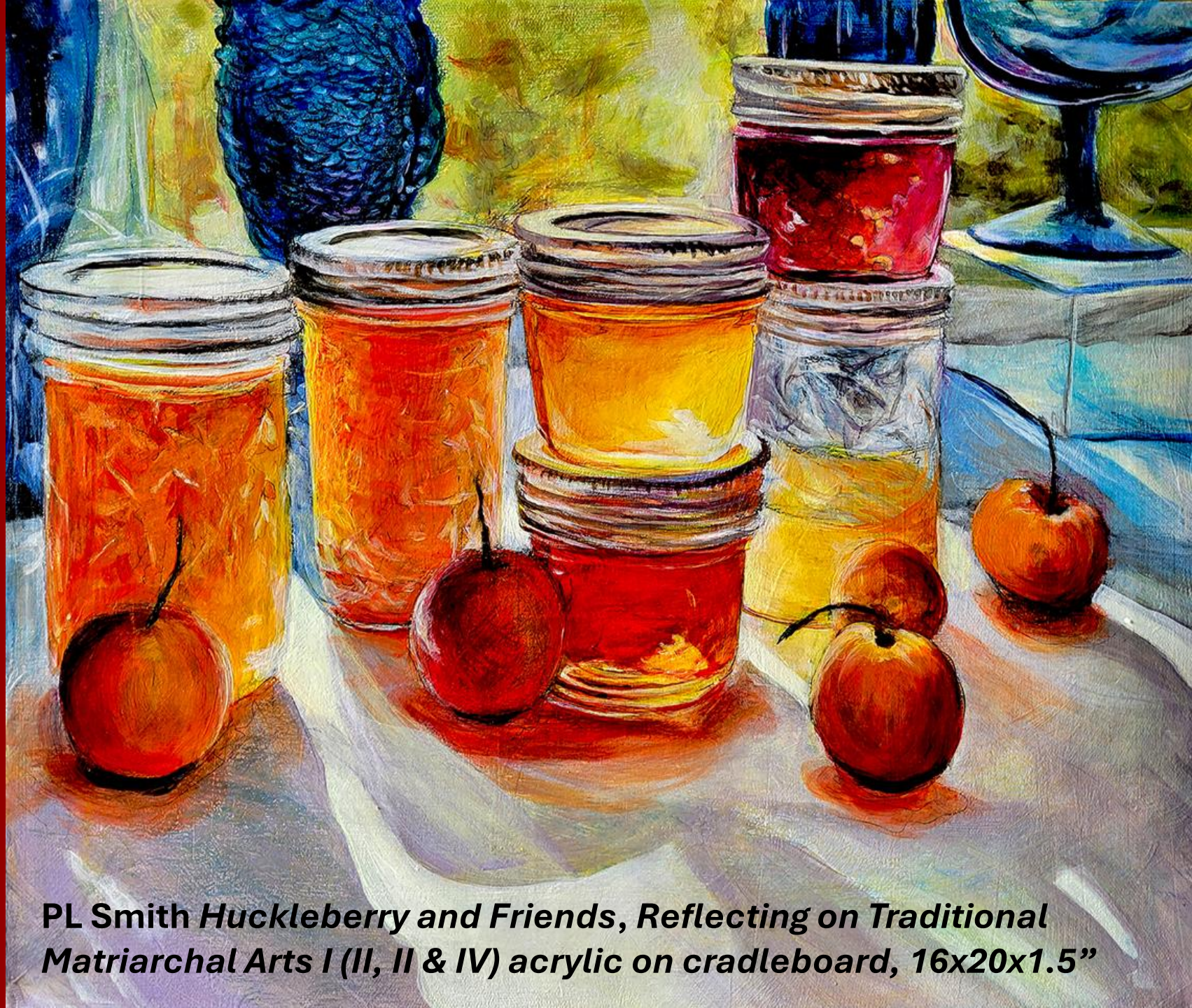


Colleen became Red Willow Fishtrap Woman's guardian. This living sculpture has been crammed into my car many times to attend ceremonies, gatherings, meetings & exhibitions.





(photo Ned Pratt) Mary Pratt's 1999 *Jelly Shelf* oil on canvas 22x28". This iconic Canadian image is a stamp & inspired my own jelly jar series for my **Food, Art & Community** course. Her talent, focus on the women's work of food, and the fact that she 'accidentally' came into her own from under a well-recognized artist husband's dominance have long made her a personal hero.



PL Smith *Huckleberry and Friends, Reflecting on Traditional Patriarchal Arts I (II, II & IV)* acrylic on cradleboard, 16x20x1.5"



This quartet was juried into the **KUME** exhibition at the Salmon Arm Art Gallery. Only three remained for inclusion in the ***Echoes of Our Lineage*** exhibition at TRU's Gallery.

KUME's purpose was to have artists explore indigenous food and medicine plants that have been displaced locally.



I relearned how to make jelly, focused on the huckleberry and other fruits in proximity to my own neighbourhood and garden.

The crabapple is the only indigenous apple tree in BC, is now very rare. All varieties of apple were colonially imported, including the crabapple varieties that are now very common.









# September Art Show

(September 4<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>)

Generously Sponsored by...



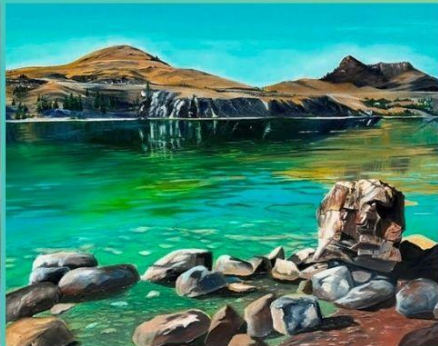
Proudly presents our...

**James Postill**

**Linda Hunt**

**Wendy Browne**

**Lisa Figueroa**



Four Artists: Unique Expressions

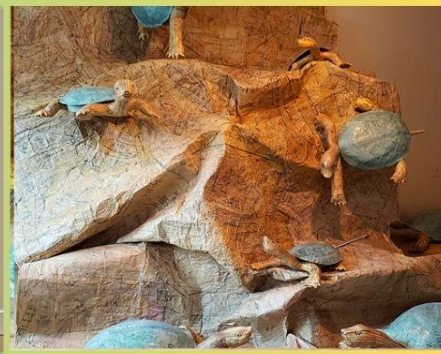
**Vaughn Butland**

**Juve Furtado**

Echoes of Our Lineage

**Patricia L. Smith**

**Susan Miller**



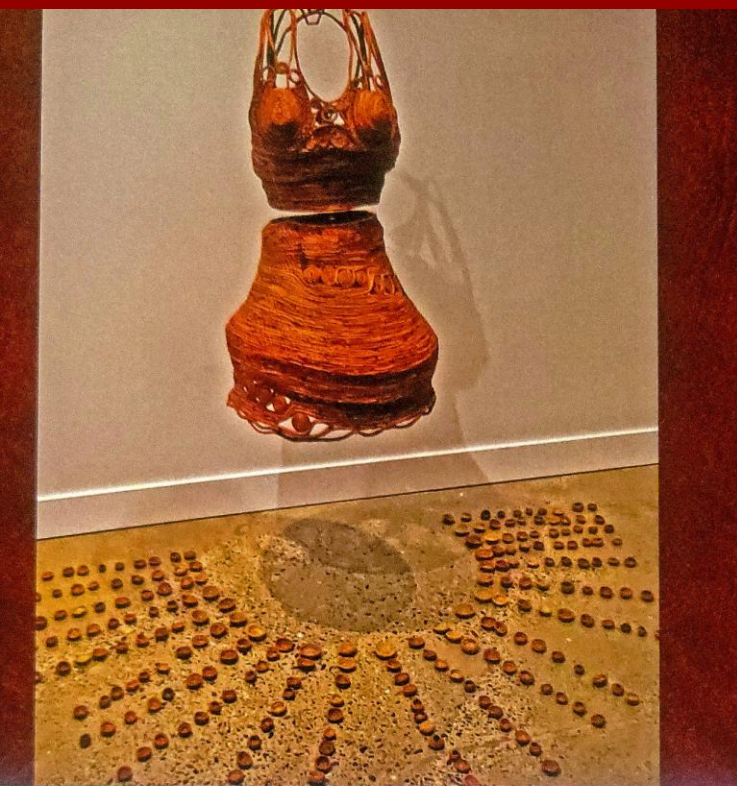
Opening Reception:

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Wine and Refreshments provided



Get in touch to learn more:

[www.armstrongspallmuseumart.com /](http://www.armstrongspallmuseumart.com/)  
1-250-546-8318



**Armstrong Spallumcheen Museum and Art Gallery**

3415 Pleasant Valley Rd Armstrong, BC V4Y 0J3 (250)546-8318

Open: Tues - Sat. 10am - 4pm

Sponsored by Sheperd's Home Hardware

**Echoes of Our Lineage**

Sept. 4 - 27 2025

Freeze Gallery

Emerging from four differing herstories, our individual reconciliatory artworks respond to the call for justice extended to all Canadians to REDress the ongoing MMIWG2S+ crisis. Together, Echoes of Our Lineage stands as a visual gesture of solidarity—an open invitation for continued engagement in respectful dialogue to end gendered violence.

**Opening Reception: Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 2025 (6-8 PM)**

**Patricia L. Smith**

[plsmithartist.com](http://plsmithartist.com) @patricial.smith

Wendy Browne, Lisa Figueroa, Susan Miller



The full installation of ***Our Unsettling Canadian HerStory*** as presented in the ***Echoes of Our Lineage*** exhibition at the Armstrong Spallumcheen Art Gallery

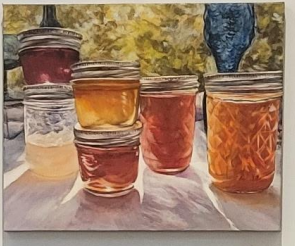
September 2025

**Red Willow Fishtrap Woman will be our guest  
at Echoes of Our Lineage. (at TRU)  
Come add to her beauty and power.**



**Our artists' talk in  
Trinity  
Western  
University's  
Gallery**

**Mid October  
2025**



# Echoes of Our Lineage

WENDY BROWNE, LISA FIGUEROA,  
SUSAN MILLER, PATRICIA L. SMITH

Opening Reception: Oct 17<sup>th</sup> 4 - 6 pm  
Oct 17 - Nov 7, 2025  
Mon - Fri 10 am - 5pm



Thompson Rivers University Gallery  
(In Old Main near Theatre)  
835 University Dr,  
Kamloops, BC V2C 0C8



The TRU exhibition could have been my visual expression 'thesis'.

Our granddaughters Adelaide and Elowyn Auger are not currently eligible for Indian status (Tall Cree, Fort Vermillion) due to the 2nd generation rule.



Colleen and I were invited to exhibit InStead & Red Willow Fishtrap Woman at the Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week Nov 2025.



We discussed gender specific violence with many, including Tantoo Cardinal and Miss Indigenous Canada – who uses their platform to champaign 2 Spirit+ rights.

**Mona Lisa  
joined us for the  
week & Mukwa  
Musayett for an  
evening.**

**The research  
team together  
in person. It  
always beats a  
Zoom meeting.**



Delores Purdaby - Shuswap Basketry

591 First Nations Rd,  
Salmon Arm, BC. V1E 2Z6  
Phone 250-832-6558



DELORES PURDABY is glad to share her knowledge and skill with those who desire to join her in making their own basket from start to finish. She can be available to lead groups in the art of basket making in the Shuswap tradition. While Delores is more humble in presenting her works, those who know her and appreciate her skills and friendship are happy to praise her for her work in Birch, Cedar Root, and Pine Needle crafting.

There are many aspects to basketry that you may or may not be familiar with yet. Feel free to ask questions. Basketry materials are naturally available during different seasons. Knowledge of the land is just one part of Delores' skill in basketry. A well crafted basket will last for many years. As baskets age the colors will deepen, as will your appreciation for the basket and the culture behind it.

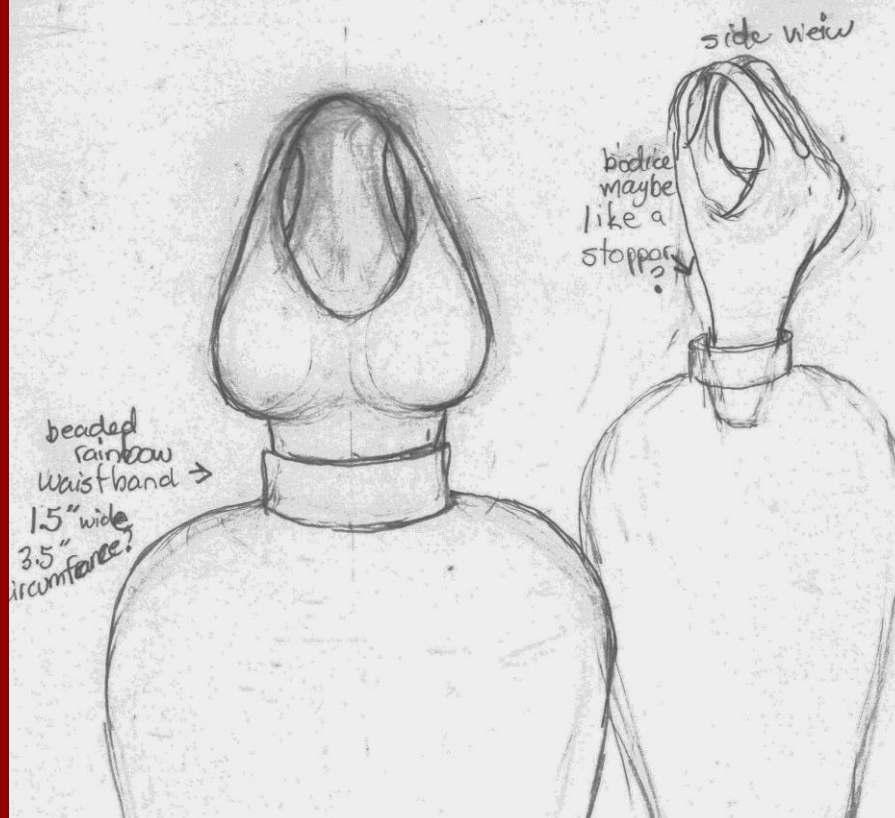
Thank you for your interest in the Shuswap community.

**Delores Purday (Neskonlith) gifted a prayer basket to contain the more private MMIWG2S+ responses. Beautiful artworks, names, thoughts and prayers continue to be added to both the living sculpture and the basket.**

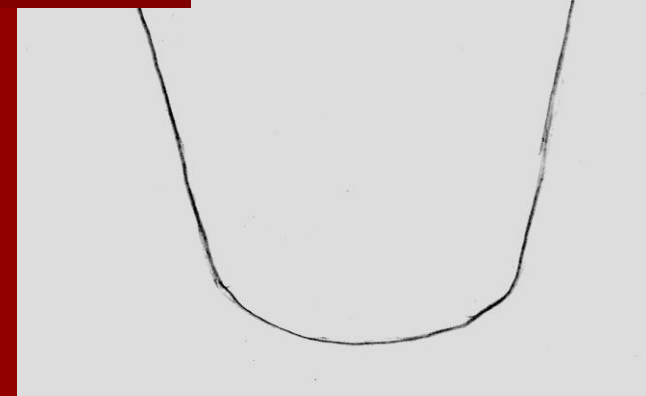
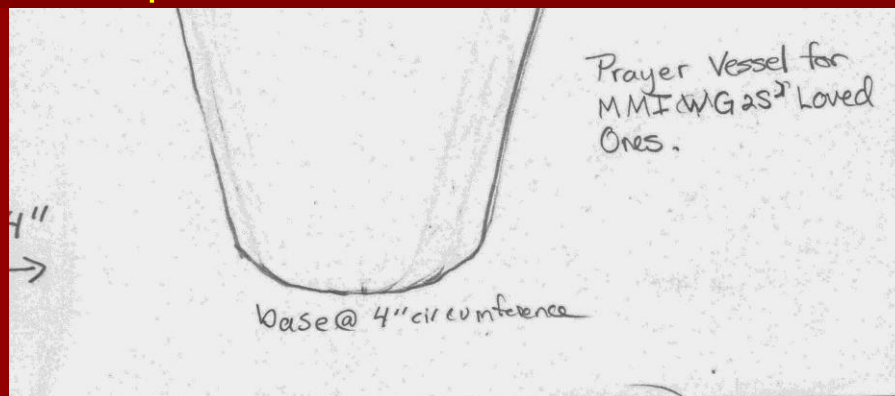
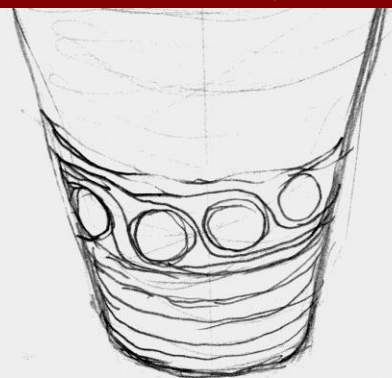


Mother's Tears:  
When I think of the  
missing and murdered  
women, I pray, hurt.  
How many baskets would  
they all have made?  
Delores Purdaby





Sketches inspired by Delores' prayer basket = our collaborative Prayer Vessels. The 1<sup>st</sup> completed has been travelling through the Ore Mountain regions of Czech Republic and Germany since October 2025, and may remain in the permanent collection of a Czech museum.



**The Purdaby collaborators,  
Delores & Patricia.**



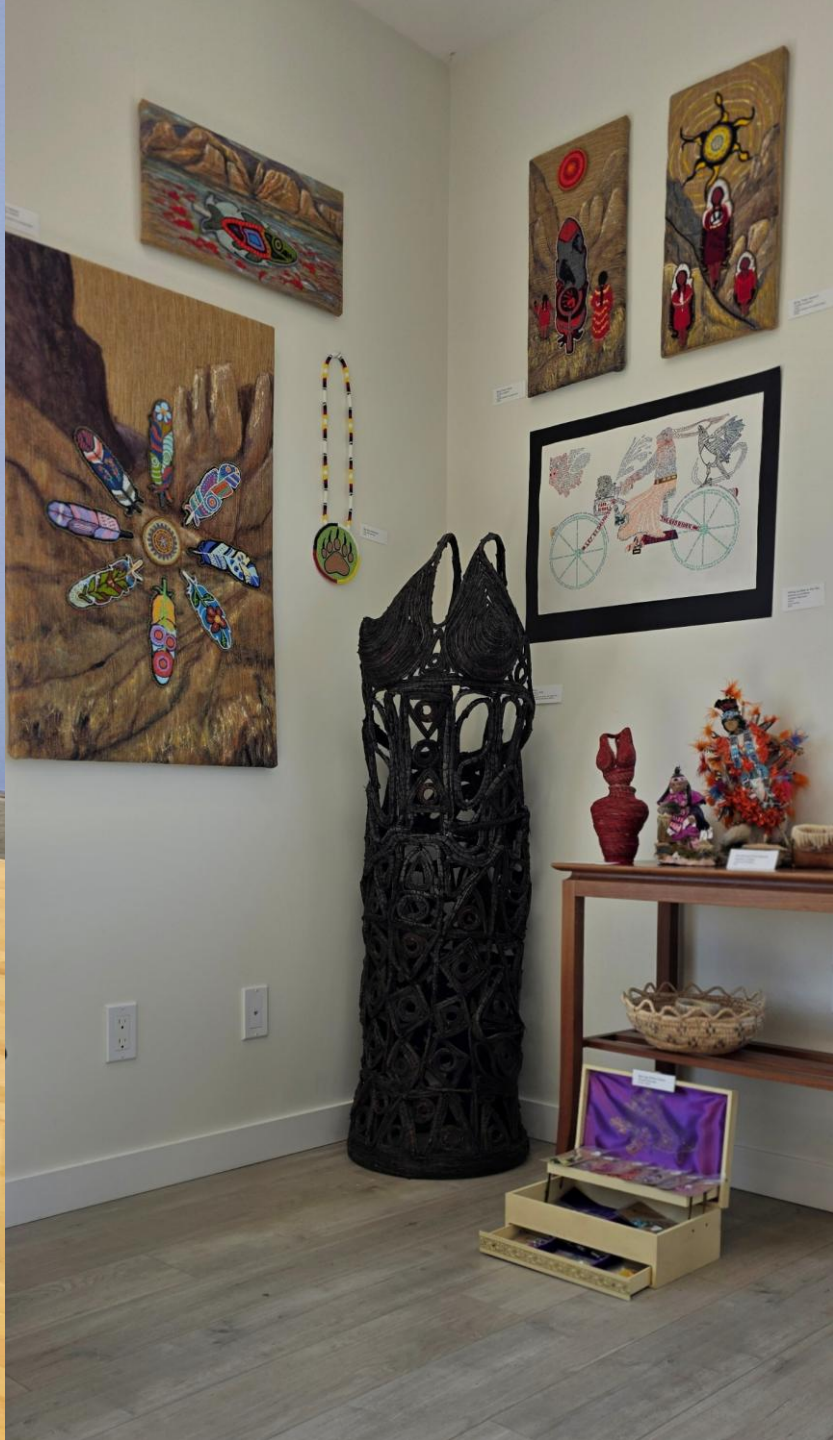
Prayer Vessel II 12x5x5" PLSmith & Prayer Vessel I PL Smith,  
Delores & Patricia Purdaby 18x9x9" Ponderosa pine needle,  
dye, wire, artificial waxed sinew



@PATRICIAL.SMITH

check out her big sister's journey at  
[https://youtube.com/shorts  
/DzJpfywGwPI?si=o1kgaZTrwrnrNBdg](https://youtube.com/shorts/DzJpfywGwPI?si=o1kgaZTrwrnrNBdg)  
on @MyMayArt.

Documentary 'Searching For Winnetou'  
(CBC Gems) explains Karl May's impact in  
Czech/Germany area & exhibitions'  
purpose in promoting  
Truth & Reconciliation.



3 of 7 members of Sen7anse Melkwilc = Magpie Alliance.

Cynthia Langford, Delores Purdaby and Patricia Narcisse's work joined my, Colleen Seymour & Marla Philip's at the Atelier Gallery in Salmon Arm in April 2026.

We meet in May to polish our arts grant applications.

Thus, the work continues  
beyond this MAHRSJ  
degree.