

WE ARE SACRED:
*RECLAIMING THE
ARCHIVE IN THE
CONTEXT OF THE
NATIONAL INQUIRY INTO
MISSING AND MURDERED
INDIGENOUS WOMEN
AND GIRLS*

Dr. Karine Duhamel



IN MEMORIAM...



- *Morgan Harris*
- *Marcedes Myran*
- *Rebecca Contois*
- *Mashkode*
Bizhiki'ikwe (Buffalo
Woman)



KENT MONKMAN, THE SCREAM (2017)



ROOTS OF THE NATIONAL INQUIRY

THE MANDATE

- *The National Inquiry must look into and report on the **systemic causes of all forms of violence against Indigenous women and girls, including sexual violence.** We must examine the **underlying social, economic, cultural, institutional, and historical causes that contribute to the ongoing violence** and particular vulnerabilities of Indigenous women and girls in Canada. The mandate also directs us to **look into and report on existing institutional policies and practices to address violence,** including those that are effective in reducing violence and increasing safety.*





THE TRUTH- GATHERING PROCESS



FOUR ROOT CAUSES THAT MAINTAIN COLONIAL VIOLENCE



- *Unresolved multigenerational and intergenerational trauma;*
- *Economic and social marginalization;*
- *Lack of political will and maintaining the status quo;*
- *Denial of the agency and expertise of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.*

RECLAIMING POWER AND PLACE



THE PROBLEM WITH ARCHIVES...

- Archives are about the **power to remember, and the power to forget.**

“Indigenous peoples to be central players in record keeping processes from the beginning. Their voices, aspirations, cultures and their value and knowledge systems must be respected and accommodated. The onus is on the institutions of archiving and record keeping to evolve in order to accommodate Indigenous peoples, rather than on Indigenous peoples to conform to mainstream practices.”

- Mick Gooda, Gangulu, Central Queensland, Australia and Commissioner for Australia’s Royal Commission into the Child Protection and Youth Detention Systems of the Northern Territory

THE LEGACY ARCHIVE

- The Legacy Archive collected artistic expressions, either through donations (from family members of missing and murdered loved ones, intergenerational survivors and those working towards reconciliation), education projects or acquisitions from artists and storytellers.
- It is an **ACTION-BASED** project to empower new kinds of encounters, and new attitudes that support safety for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People.



TELLING A NEW STORY

- *Everything that our ancestors took, [they] turned it into such beauty, such art, and used every tool that they ever had access to, to write, to tell us stories, to record history. So from carvings to paint on the rocks, to tools of beadwork, and the way we dressed - all that was all of stories about our identity, our history and who we are as a people.*



Miigam'agan, Mi'kmaw Elder

FRAMING THE LEGACY ARCHIVE: RIGHTS HOLDERS AND ARCHIVAL POLICIES



- **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** (*Articles 8.1, 11.1, 12.1, 15.1, and 31.1*)
- **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action** (*Calls to Action 13, 79, 43 & 44 – with UNDRIP*)
- **Protocols for Native American Archival Materials** – *establish the importance of building relationships of respect and understanding with people and communities, and of education for the public*

GALLERY OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS: BEYOND COMMEMORATION

Sculpture by Mary Ann Grainger

- See the full gallery here: [Legacy Archive | MMIWG \(mmiwg-ffada.ca\)](https://legacyarchive.mmiwg-ffada.ca)





MOTHERLY
LOVE, BY
DEE-JAY
MONIKA
RUMBOLT





*BEADED BOOTIES,
BY LORRAINE
RICHARD*





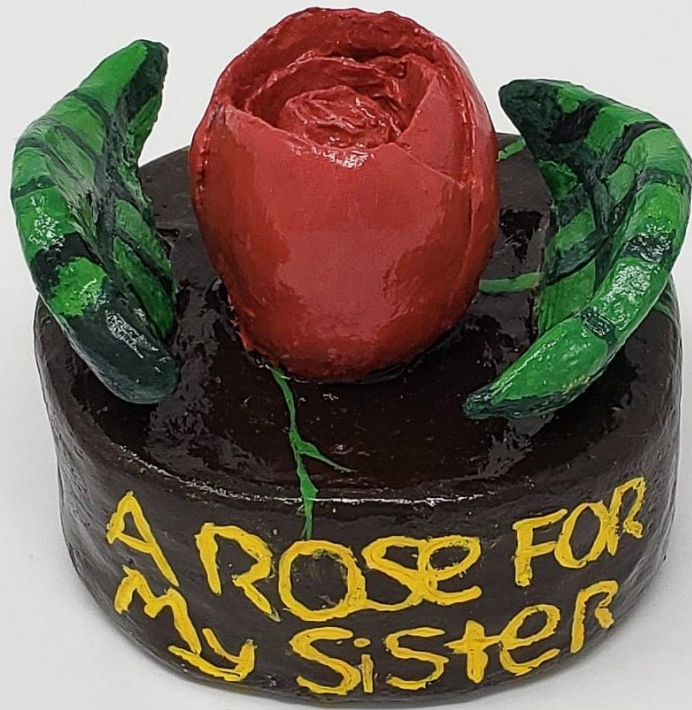
*RED RIVER
DRIFTWOOD, BY
MYLINDA
GISLASON*





*BEAR CLAN
WALL MURAL,
BY BRIGITTE
ANDRE*





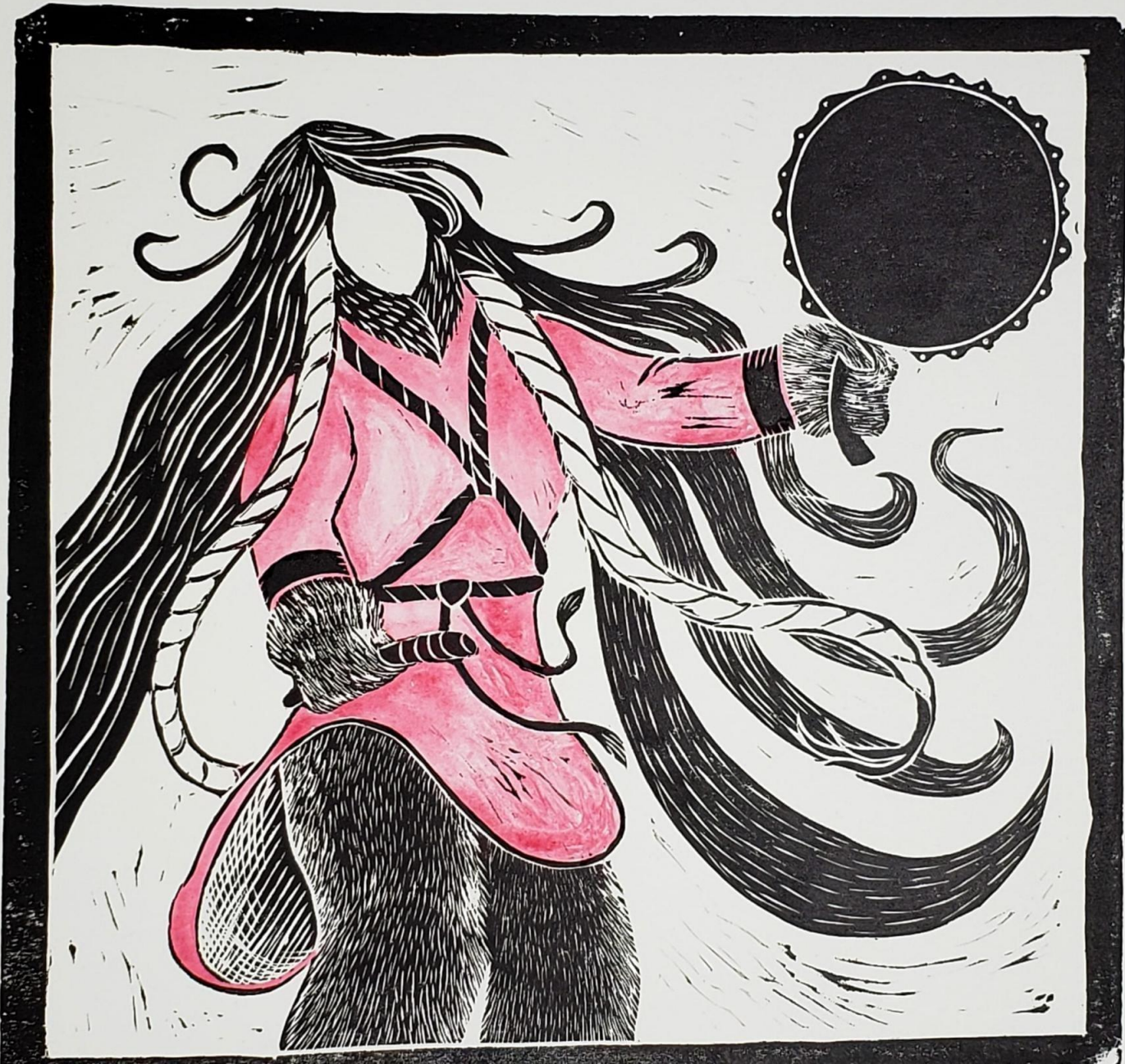
*A ROSE FOR MY
SISTER, BY
BRANDON POITRAS*





HIGHWAY OF TEARS, BY CHRIS SCOTT

<https://youtu.be/hnQhGdXKZqk>



SISTER
DRUMMER
IN FADED
RED, BY
JASON
SIKOAK





UNSPOKEN WORDS, BY
MIKHAYLA PATTERSON
IN COLLABORATION
WITH SOCIAL WORK
STUDENTS AT
MACEWAN UNIVERSITY



OUR WOMEN, GIRLS, AND 2SLGBTQQIA+ PEOPLE ARE SACRED





MMIWG2S+ IN MUSEUM CONTEXT





**I'M A
CHANGE
MAKER –
ARE
YOU?**

