

- **The “Medicine Wheel” is my favorite painting because of the many hidden images inside of it. It really gives you a sense of wonder when you look at it. The mix of colours is also very appealing and is calm on the eyes and gives a sense of calmness when you look at it.**

- **I think that the story that the artist is trying to tell in this painting is that when you become sick, the outcome is either not as you would like (the darker side of the wheel) or good (the lighter side of the wheel). I also believe that the artist doesn't only mean sick as in a disease or flu, but troubled or faced with problems and conflicts.**

- **I believe that she is trying to tell us that there is a chance that things can go either the way we want or the way we don't want. And that this outcome is determined as simply as spinning a wheel. The hidden images in the painting represent the things that happen within you in your conflict resolution.**

- **This piece relates to me, personally, because when I look at it, I see decisions that I have to make. I see them on the wheel just waiting to be spun and decided. I feel that the darker side of the wheel also has its benefits and the lighter side also has its down sides so either way it's a gamble and all I can do is hope for the best and hope that I am making the right decision.**

## Messages

In this small place looking up  
I have words that you hear  
Before my tongue  
For they are heard in your heart  
And known before the start  
That I have come  
And connected to your Blue  
That place I knew you  
Long before we were here

For in this small place looking up  
The vision is smaller still compared to the Blue  
And the vastness that connects to you  
And the messages I speak  
Reach from my heart  
To the space that resides beyond this place  
Beyond this sky  
Beyond this blue  
Beyond this dark  
But everywhere  
All at once  
And beyond my tongue  
And the connection that rides into the thermals  
Under their wings that glide  
And take these messages to you.

LauraLee K. Harris

- **The poem “Messages” tells about how Lauralee is communicating with someone far away, possibly dead. It seems as if she is talking to someone who she is unable to meet face to face or email or talk to on the telephone. This is evident because she speaks of sending messages in the sky and gliding in the sky.**

- **Poetry and art make a successful, expressive combination because the poetry attached to the piece of art work gives the artist more of a chance to express themselves and the way that they particularly feel. When somebody looks at this artists work, they may feel one way, but after reading the artist's poem they will feel the way that the artist felt or intended them to feel when looking at the piece.**

- If I were talking to someone who did not know about Lauralee Harris and her style of art, I would start off telling them that she is unique and different from any other artist that I have ever studied. I would tell them that she takes the simplicity of her culture and her own ideas and mixes them together to come up with her own, unique masterpieces.



- I would also tell them that she does not use your everyday canvas. I would tell them that she uses wood as a canvas and doesn't cover up the knots in it, but works with them to come up with an image. She also has many hidden images inside of the images painted on the wood that all have meaning in the painting.

- Finally, I would tell them that she was inspired to create such works of art from her family and native back round. Also, I would mention that she has a poem to go with her pieces that gives a sense of the meaning behind the piece of art work. I would tell them that she incorporates the primitive nature of her roots to come up with something magnificent.

- **I enjoyed my tour experience. The colours of the paintings are astonishing and most definitely what I like best about the paintings. The bright reds and oranges jump right out at you and make the painting come alive. The gallery I visited was called “Gallery of Messages Between Blue and Red 2006”. Some of her latest projects are displayed in this gallery, 2006 being the year that just passed.**

- I believe that Lauralee Harris has made an astonishing difference in Canadian art. She has brought a unique kind of style into what used to be one of the duller art societies. She uses poetry to express her life experiences and feelings as well as a wood canvas to bring out images in nature that also relate to her. She is a unique, one of a kind artist that cannot be duplicated.

- She has been an advocate for aboriginal art and expression because of her use of nature and the images she brings out in her wood canvas. She highlights the goodness of simplicity and gives other artists the confidence to follow in her footsteps and portray their feelings and culture through art. Lauralee Harris will be recognized as a great Canadian artist for the years to come.

- Lauralee Harris feels the need to contribute part of her earnings to the Anishnawbe Health of Toronto because this charity is geared towards those of the native back round which, as you know, is the back round of Lauralee, herself. She wants to help support her people and by doing this, she is helping them out quite a bit.

- Artists would donate to this charity because in doing so, people would see that some of the proceeds are sent to a good cause pushing them to purchase pieces of their art. This is also a good way for the artist to advertise themselves and the charity to advertise the social issue to those who may have been unaware until going to an art show.

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END