

Nicholas
Asquith

Karina HULL

Nicholas Lafano.

Jessica
Koch

A. Vito. F

~~Vito F~~
Vito. F

Jonathan
Vero aka Francis

Anthony Fera

A.K.A Vito
😊

Paula
Djanowicz

I love your
work!

Romel
Poro

Shannon

P. Ryba

Mark
Molteni

Your work is
magnificent! It is
very inspiring.
-Chelsea Pisano

Aryan Ganji

thank you =D

I love your
work
~ Kadrey
Maxwell ~

저의 바보의 사랑...
Your work is
original... -Mark Ji-

R. Burtelli

Looking Back: Creating "Looking Out" By Sarah Lake



Laura Lee Harris has changed the way I look at life and nature. During the process of creating my own piece of art, inspired by Laura Lee Harris, I had found it had brought up distinct memories from my past. When painting, I had remembered the time I had gone on vacation with my family (in Aruba), walking down to the beach to watch the sun set. The sight of the sun had inspired me to bring out this memorable memory in my painting and through my poetry.

It amazes me how Laura Lee Harris could take a piece of wood and find a story which expresses who she is and her culture, through the grains of the wood. This process had further taught me to look at the simple things in life as it takes one simple action to make a difference, like Laura Lee Harris has. Overall, Laura Lee Harris's art has inspired me to look beyond my canvas, and has opened me up to a whole new world and level of art and expression.

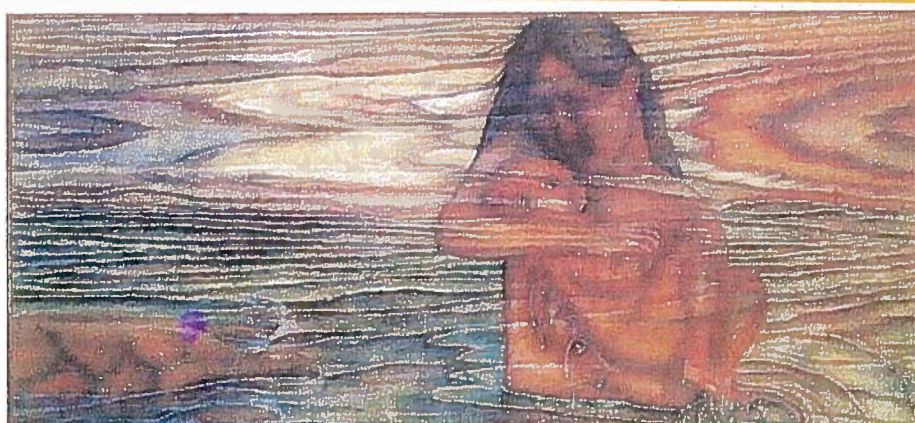
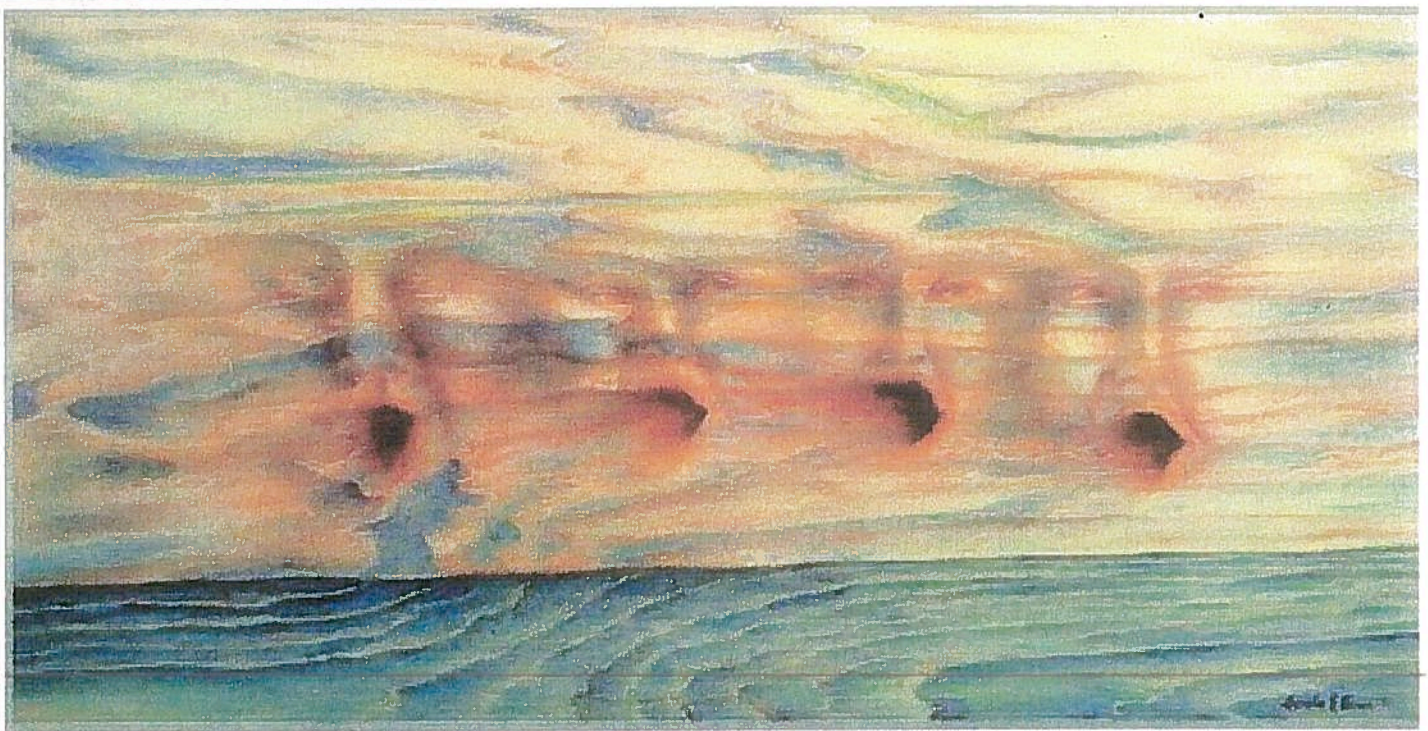
Throughout this process, it had brought me to realize that something so simple can be very complex, you just have to look beyond yourself, open your imagination, in order to make it beautiful and your own, something that shows your stories and who you are. This process had made me more fascinated about the world around me, especially nature.

1. Ten points about Laura Lee Harris's life that I find especially interesting are:

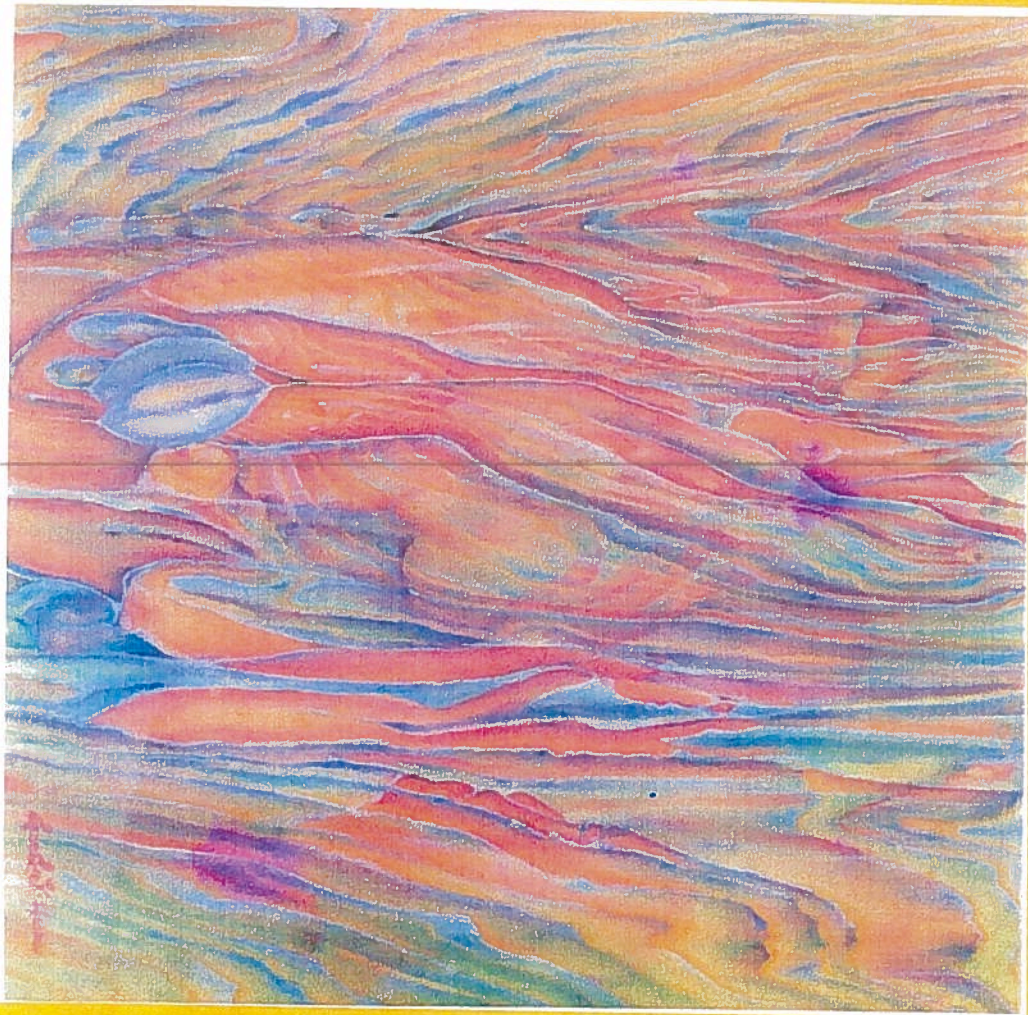
- By the time she was 18, she had moved 20 times. – I find this interesting because that would mean that she would have had to move more than once every year (if you balance it out). -
- Harris began painting portraits in oils, moved into acrylics, and explored a diverse range of subject matter. – I find this point interesting because it shows how she did not automatically know what type of art was her passion. It showed that she went through many different forms of art, before discovering her true passion. -
- The sadness and goodness of the aboriginal people inspired the reason for her work. – This is interesting because it shows how she used her art work as a kind of therapy; she would express her emotions and inner feelings through her artwork.
- In 2000, she was showing internationally, and had won numerous awards including the Award of Excellence and the Special Recognition awards. – This point shows how her work is recognized not only locally but worldwide. At first she was just a person who was being recognized by a limited local audience, then to large groups, and finally the whole world. –
- Her work has been televised, in interviews and on news channels, newspapers, magazines, in private and public collections worldwide. – Once again, this shows how much talented she is, and how far her art has progressed and continues to grow. –
- Everyone in her family was artistically involved, and they all encouraged her to be creative, by signing her up for art classes for example. – This just shows how much your family has an impact on how you grow up, and that by surrounding her with art, she learned to love it, and develop a passion for it. -
- After meeting her husband in the early eighties, he encouraged her to study art further. – This shows how other people pushing you to do things that they know you are strong in can help you in the long run.
- In 1988 she had her first solo exhibition of her work. – This means that she had her first solo art exhibition when she was only 32.-
- In 1993 she was nominated, as an Honor Student at the Ontario College of Art and Design. – This shows us that even in university, she was recognized as being a wonderful artist, and a talented person overall.
- Her uncle told her about his past, and about their heritage (native). He told her about his struggles to find his family, and finally he found it, even though he was eight years too late to find his mother. – Through the experience of finding her lost uncle, it changed the course of her art and her life. This made her art even more expressive, and even more exquisite.

2. Her inspirations were mainly her heritage, and family. First of all, her heritage seems to be reason for her style of art. I think that her lost uncle who appeared later in her life played a large role in her release of emotion through her paintings. Her family always encouraged her to be artistic, and because she was always surrounded by artistic people, this influenced her to become an artist. Basically, I think that her heritage was the

reasoning for the style she created, but her family is what made her become so artistic, and mixing those two elements together, created her art pieces.



3. Personally, my favourite piece by her is “the four winds of change”. I find this piece of art very intriguing, and when you first look at it, you wouldn't quite understand what it is supposed to represent. Personally, I am not exactly sure where the piece is going in terms of what it is a representation of, but I think that that is what makes it so cool. Unless you were to read a description of it which states what it is about, you are free to use your imagination, and relate it to yourself in one way or another. In my opinion (after staring at this piece for a long time, trying to find representations) this piece is representing how things change, and how every passing moment something changes in one way or another.. I think this because when you look at the painting, it looks like those four faces are blowing air out of their mouths. This I think expresses wind, and to me wind could be linked with change and a new coming day because wind blows things away, just like how new days come, and new things happen every day. Wind to me is an expression of how quickly time moves, and how every passing day is like a fast blowing wind, passing us by without even realizing it leaves us so fast.



4. I especially like this poem because it is very meaningful. It has many little things in it that makes it seem so rich and powerful. It speaks about how water is in us, and also in mother earth. This shows how we are connected to this earth, and how it creates a bond we should have with it. Also, it states how water has been around longer than we have, and also that it is everywhere. A good point she makes in this poem is that without water, humans could not survive, and water comes from the earth, meaning we could not exist without the wonderful masterpieces the earth provides for us. Another good point that she makes is that although water has the ability to keep us alive, it can also have to ability to kill us. My favourite line in this poem is:

To clouds up high in the sky
it begins and ends in drops
but connects as one
and unites in a flow

I especially like this line because it shows how even though we are all individual people, we are all connected, and are all the same, just like how raindrops are all individual, but when they connect, they form one large ocean, and you cant tell any raindrop from another, because they are all united.

The Spirit of Water

It flows all around us and creates us
From our first gush as its cushion loosens
we flow out after it
And in the end it is expelled from us before our last gasp
It is life giving to all of our beginnings and to our finish
As it enters before our life and before our spirit enters the next world

The life spirit of water
is in a mother's tears
And in her milk
in her saliva
it flows blue from the sky
And feeds red of our blood life
in soil and skin
It retains itself in our bodies from what we eat
inside ourselves and deep inside Mother Earth
it cleans us and cools us then warms us
it has flowed over our ancestors
And now pours over us

It is sacred in its spirit and movement, shape and time
It travels in circles from bodies of water on earth
To clouds up high in the sky
It begins and ends in drops
But connects as one
And unites in a flow
It plays with us in a spirit of fun moving us to and fro
Or it can crush us fill our lungs and suffocate the breath pressed out

It can polish a stone
Grow a tree
Wash away land
And sit gentle on a web strand
It quenches our thirst
And washes our organs
It is all that we are
It is Mother Earth's blood
And we are connected to every drop
And as her children we must guard
What she gives us

5. I would describe her work as a style that I have never seen before, and talk about the originality she puts into her pieces. I would probably talk about her roots and heritage, and say how much her style of art reflects her native heritage. Also, I would say that her art pieces are really interesting because of the amount of thought they make you go through before achieving what you think one of her pieces would be representing. Also, her art pieces are very influential, meaning they would probably leave a mark on you, and they would probably affect the way you look at art from then on. I think the coolest thing about her art is that one piece could have so many different meanings and interpretations on what it is trying to best represent. In my opinion, you could probably get ten different people to look at one of her art pieces, and they would all have different things on what their opinions are of what it represents. I would probably end off the conversation with the person by saying that she is a truly original artist, who uses her native backgrounds to influence her art pieces, and she often uses family experiences to express her emotions into her piece.

6. My tour experience of her virtual galleries was good. I noticed the each gallery had similarities within them. For example, the theme of one gallery could be more colorful, and fun, while a theme for another gallery would be more serious, and meaningful. I personally enjoyed her later galleries because they seemed to be more developed than her earlier ones. Her earlier ones were duller, and less use of contrasting colors. Also, her later ones seemed to me to be a lot more exciting, but still had the same amount of seriousness in them.

While reading her reviews, I noticed that most of them were similar. They all expressed how they felt about her art pieces (all comments were good) but all of them also mentioned how they thought that her native background played a large role in the styles of her art pieces.

Some of her latest projects are the Fort Erie peace bridge commission. This is just the latest project she has been working on, and even though it is not fully completed yet, it is expected to be beautiful when finished.

7. I think Laura Lee has made a large impact on Canadian art because she is representing the native side of Canada, which goes way back in our history. I think this is important because there aren't that many native artists who display and express their art like Laura Lee has, and I definitely think it is important to represent that side of Canada. She has definitely showed us how art can be a wonderful yet mysterious form of therapy, and that putting emotion into your art can really help you in more ways than one.



8. Laura Lee feels the need to contribute half the money she earns to the Anishnawbe Health of Toronto because she feels she should give back to her fellow natives by giving them the money she earns from making native art pieces. I think that by her giving half of her income from her art to the Health Centre, she is setting a wonderful example to everyone by saying how important it is to give back to people who you now or don't know. I think that artists often use their pieces to expose social issues by giving back to their communities. For example, Laura Lee I think is trying to say that the aboriginal peoples do not get enough recognition, and by doing this, she is showing that she does care about this issue, and it also shows that she is taking a stand and donating money to help the homeless and persons struggling with addictions and mental health issues. Also, by her doing this, it shows that she is not in this business to get rich, it shows that she is in the business because she truly loves to express herself through art, and by giving away half the money made to Anishnawbe Health, it shows how the money is a gift to her, and it shows how she enjoys giving back to her community, by doing something good with her money.

LauraLee Harris Writing Assignment

What are my experiences from doing this art?

Personally, I find your art to be very unique, and not like anything I have seen before. It really seems like you put a lot of thought, feeling and emotion into each piece of art you do. Everything seems to be so meaningful, and I feel art should be used as a form of expression, just like how you use it.

From doing this project, I have a new perspective of wood. At first I found it really difficult to find different patterns and pictures in my piece of wood and I found myself kind of frustrated. My original painting was on the other side of my wood. I had it all planned out, but it wasn't really working. So I tried to start anew on the other side of my wood, and it came much more gracefully and more naturally. I now find myself looking for pictures in wood when I look at it, and I often can now because of this project.

I definitely think that your art is beautiful, and I always love to see different and foreign types of art like yours. I respect the uniqueness to your style, and it is definitely like nothing I have seen before.

- Emily Whelan

Aryan Ganji 9C

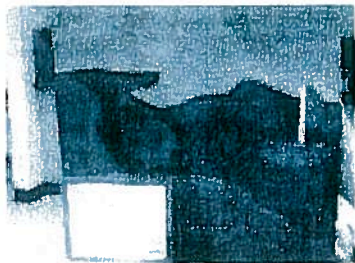
Reflection of Art project

June 4th, 07

Hello dear Laura Lee Harris. I had a great time, and an amazing experience doing this project and drawing the way that you did. But just like you we all had our problems and our obstacles. Personally I had a lot of problems. The biggest problem that I had was finding what to draw on the wood, finding how I can use the grains of my piece of wood to the max and get the best out of it. Looking at it for a while gave me the idea of beach, river, mountains and the sky. I made the sky a sunset because the way I found it was that at the top was the closest to me and then it went back (further away). The mountains came to me by the grains, I saw a different kind of grain there, and it looked to me as mountains. This also goes for the beach, and river. They were different kind of grain, but the beach I found it best to make it close to the river, making the river come onto the beach.

The way I coloured my picture was with using minimum amount of paint and a lot of water to spread the paint around and making the grains come out and more visible. I added black to the river, beach, and the mountains because its sunset and not enough sun are out. I also added some yellow at the tip of the mountains and the lining of the beach and the ocean because of the sun; I added some yellow in the river as well due to the sun. the thought of using the two ovals came to me later on, I decided to make one of them a boat floating in the river, and the other one I made it an abandoned, broken down boat.

Another big problem I had was with the poem. I did my best trying to make them rhyme but did not work out to well. But I wrote the poem about the Sunset, included the person in the boat. Hopefully you've liked it, thank you for this great method of drawing.



(A picture of my drawing)

My Painting “Together-Forever”: My Ways Through Grains

When I first started my painting I really didn't know what to do. Personally it actually took a few days to really figure out what to do with my piece of wood. I don't understand how a piece of wood can speak to you, but then I saw it. I understood finally how it speaks to a person. I looked carefully on the piece of wood I had, on one side I saw rivers and oceans and fish everywhere, but on the other side I had many grains and so I had the idea of making a family of people. This family of people would represent my life and everything that I have and everything that they give me.

When I started I was unsure of what colours to use, so I looked on Lauralee's website to get me some ideas and colours and techniques. I looked and I made a purplish and pink background. This I did because I wanted it to look like as if it was in the sky at dawn where everything is beautiful and respectful. It took me a while to get the perfect background that I wanted because every time I would add colours nothing would really work out for me. Finally I had finished my background. My next step was to somehow create my people or the family. I used the circular grains to create the heads and as the grains ran down the piece of wood, so did I. I used those grains to make a sort of ghostly figure to represent how each life is flowing in its own way and each life flows differently from one another. I painted these ghostly figures black because it would stand out from a far.

All my ideas and inspiration came from Lauralee K. Harris. She has been a great inspiration to my artwork and everything I've done. When I first did I project on her I looked at all her paintings I was so inspired about her work that I couldn't wait to start. I researched more and more about her and I found some interesting things about her. She is a great inspiration and great role model on Canadian Art and how we should all always represent who we are, no matter what others think or no matter how indifferent a person is from everyone else. Through her artwork she tells you stories of her life and her people, and by her inspiration that's what I have gotten from her. She has inspired me to do everything upon how I feel about life and what I want to represent no matter how people think about the ideas.

To end this off, I greatly want to thank Lauralee because she has been a great role model for me in my art and she helped me put a better look upon what I want to show. She has given me so much to learn from. This project I did for my art really made me concentrate on what I had to do. Personally, I've never concentrated on something like art before, so this gave me a new experience also. To finish, off I greatly appreciate what you do with your art. It reflects upon you very well and shows everyone who you truly are because who you truly are is the best gift you can give anyone without paying the price.

By: Paula Dajnarowicz



“A Deeper Look Inside Canadian Native Art”

Inspired By: *LauraLee Harris*

Written By: *Michael Asquith*

The assignment “A deeper look inside Canadian native art” was one of my most favourite assignments of the year. The reason as to why this assignment was good was because of the freedom it gave to do what I wanted, and paint what I felt the wood represented and meant. My painting, called “Burning Spirits” was painted because of what I felt the wood should be, and of what I saw in the wood.

In the process of finding the wood, I saw many different pieces, but none really came to me. After a while, I found that even if I keep looking I would find the same piece of wood, so I picked one up and bought it. After two days in class I found I could do nothing with the wood I had because I saw nothing in it. I went back to the store and found some wood covering called veneer. This veneer was 100% natural wood. After finding the right one I placed it on my wood and began painting.

During the process of painting I knew I would need the colours red, yellow, orange, and black. So after finding that my paint was a bit too fiery, I put on my painting the colours green and blue, which gave the painting a sense of wonder in its colors. Then to bring out the grain, I had the painting dipped in water to create the blending of the colours.

After a long time of looking at my painting, I found that the paint had been applied to thickly and was hiding the grain. So, after a while of searching, I removed most of paint, and applied a thin layer of urethane to it to bring up the grain from the paint, instead of outlining with black. After that I painted the edges, and handed it in.

My poems that go along with my painting are of different interpretations of it. I found by doing different interpretations of my painting, it would appeal to a greater amount of people. Then, more people would understand what my painting meant.

By doing this assignment, I understand as to why LauraLee Harris has made a difference in Canadian native art. It is through this style of painting that she has shown the way of native painting. LauraLee has a very original style of painting that is very unique, and similar to the native style of painting. LauraLee has brought the native culture into her paintings, and has incorporated colour and value to create very unique and intricate works. The assignment I did was using these similar techniques and it was very different. It would take many years of practice, determination, and devotion to master the reading of the wood, and to be able to paint in such a very different style from modern art. I believe that this style of painting is difficult, and very fun to do.

I think LauraLee Harris is a very skilled artist, and that she has much devotion and determination to create these wonderful paintings.

LauraLee Harris:
Art Reflection: Feathered Wings and New Beginnings

LauraLee has contributed a great deal to Canadian art and the meaning behind it. With her aboriginal based work she makes me -as well as other people- realize that natives are still very alive and within our reach. Her art brings a new style to Canadian art all her own. It is a new way of expression and beliefs. LauraLee teaches Canada to look within and see what we have failed to acknowledge in the past. She fills her work with life and it calls out to people. The fact that she also creates poems for each of her artworks gives them a deeper meaning and helps people to better understand this when they read them. LauraLee has kept the art of the aboriginals alive today and that alone is a great contribution to Canadian art. LauraLee's works are an example to us all that there is more to the world than what we see every day. The things we take the time to stop and look at mean much more than things we pass by without another thought. This is why it was an inspiring and new experience for me when I created my own art piece in the style of LauraLee.

I have always taken time to think about things, questions that run through my mind or things I see animals and people going through, but until now I've never found meaning in the grains of wood. It took me quite a while to find the image within my piece of wood -not knowing exactly what to look for- but as I looked at it from different angles, I finally saw something that caught my eye. As I drew the outline of my painting and even after I began painting, following the grains within the wood, I didn't really think about the meaning of what I had found. Only after I finished and took the time to think about it did I know what it meant. Together, my painting and my poem created something completely new. Something I only found because I looked deep within myself and realized something I didn't know I knew. LauraLee's art helped me find a completely new way of looking at the world around me and I appreciate the time and effort she puts into her work to help other people like me see the world as she does.

By: Jessica Buda

Laura Lee Harris Reflection

By: Julia Crocco

This process of completing this art CPT has changed me in certain ways. The combination of learning about Laura Lee Harris , and trying to bring to life a story in the grains of wood are the two major factors that have changed my perception of life and art.

When I first had to find a piece of wood that conveyed a story, it was hard for me. It took me a while to find a piece that stood out and spoke to me. Even when I found it, I still wasn't quite sure about the story I wanted to tell through my artwork. As I began to paint my piece, more and more ideas came to me. I could see the different shapes in the wood I could use to my advantage. I had finally come up with a piece I was happy with.

This process of creating a story with wood grains has changed the way I perceive everyday objects. Now when I see everyday objects, especially wood, I can develop a story in my mind using the different shapes and patterns. This has made me a more creative and unique thinker when viewing someone's artwork. I will be able to have a better understanding of the message they are trying to get across, rather than just looking at the nice picture they have painted. It has also opened my mind to a new form of fascinating art.

The second factor that has changed my perception of life and art is what I have learned about Laura Lee Harris and her artwork. The fact that she had uncovered her hidden heritage amazes me. The other thing that amazes me is the way she shows how proud she is of her heritage through her paintings. I had never known that you could embrace your culture through your artwork and let it inspire you. I think it is very important to be proud of where you come from, and to not be afraid to express this to the world; whether it be through paintings, music or any other form of art. The next time I have to do something involving creativity and art, I will let where my family comes from inspire me.

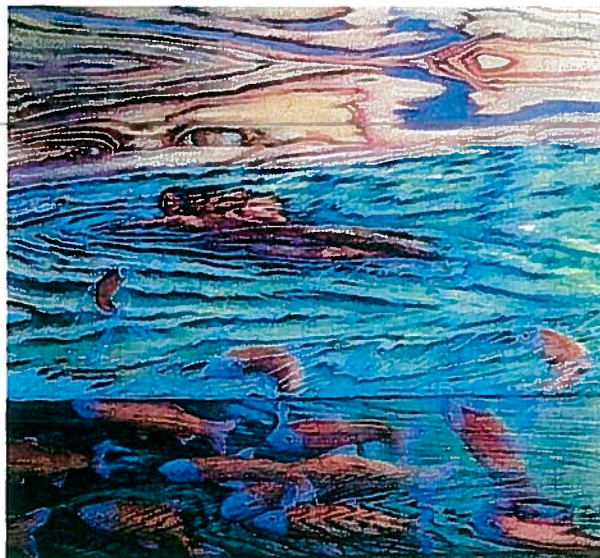
Roman Belli

Your artwork is truly inspiration, how you create such masterpieces with the wood. I personally found this experience a bit frustrating, but I am proud of the final product and of the fact that I was able to accomplish this. Doing this assignment has also made me realize many things.

This assignment opened many new doors in my artistic development. Firstly, it has made me appreciate the significance of putting meaning into art and using art to fully express ourselves. Secondly, it grew my realization of the importance of using the elements and principals of design to make a painting a great one.

Replicating your style of art has also taught me many things. Two main lessons I learned were: even though things may get tough, we should complete them because great things can come from it and that we should fully appreciate everything we have and everything that is around us (the appreciation for the wood and the story it is telling).

Working with the wood was one of the greatest assignments I had in the visual art course I enrolled in. It enhanced my development as an artist and taught me many things, plus I had fun doing this assignment.



Reflection

For the past couple of weeks we have been working on our CPT part two. In thinking that this would be the easiest part of the assignment, I was quickly proven wrong. Our task was to find or purchase a piece of wood that we could relate to, and tell a story from. As easy as it may have seemed, the second I needed to begin planning out what I was going to create, I soon realized the difficulty, and the much-needed thought in preparing and creating such a work.

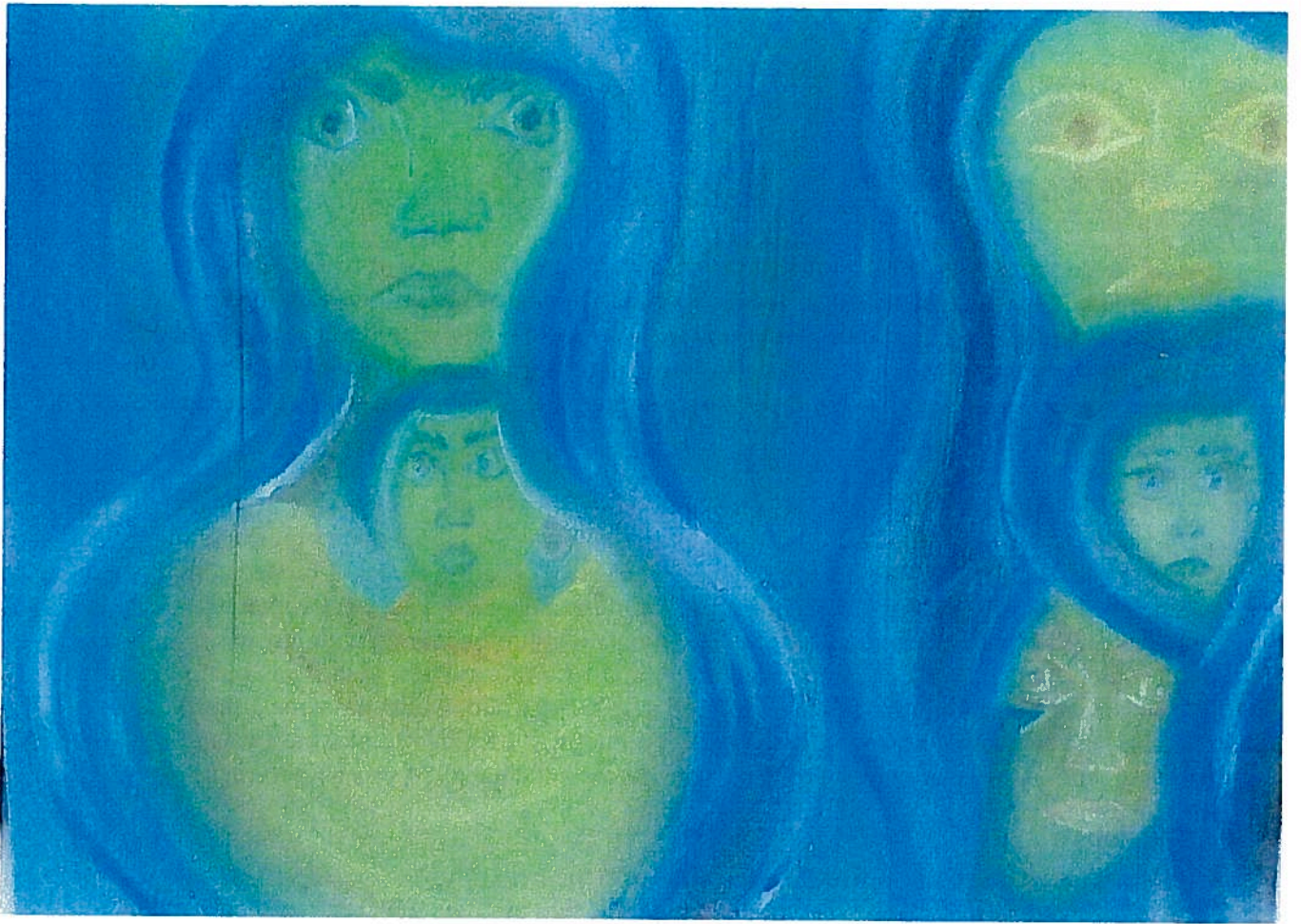
Once I held up my piece of wood, I became easily frustrated and overwhelmed with what I was seeing. It just looked like a blank piece of wood with lines running through it, as well as a few knots throughout the wood. In this case, the more closely I looked at my wood, the more flustered I would become, as I could not depict any stories or images from my piece of wood. Eventually, after feeling as I couldn't come up with any ideas that I could relate to, I just began painting my wood without any idea what I was going to be doing. I used a vibrant tint of blue-green all across the wood, which gave me a sense of clarity and relaxation however; I still knew nothing was coming out of what I was painting. Although, in using colours that were vibrant and "happy" I was able to focus on the assignment again.

Once I had painted my entire slab of wood, with the help of my art teacher, Ms. Capelet, we were able to depict the hidden images of two mothers with each of their children. These children were to be held in the arms of the mothers, and the knots in the wood were to be shown as the eyes of the two mothers and three children included in the art.

Working with the background colour, I carried out the blue-green down through the painting as the long, luxurious hair of the mother's, blending it with brown, and white to illuminate the faces. However, for the skin, I used a contrasting colour to bring life, attention and curiosity to the painting. Orange was carried out across the skin, adding yellow and red. followed through with the same brown and white used in the hair, to blend and create fluency and subtlety to the changing colours.

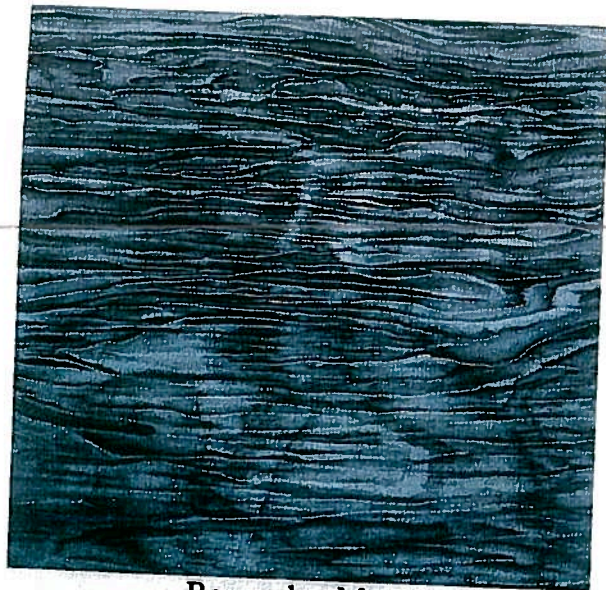
Slowly but surely, my frustration and anger was overcome by a great passion and love for the work I was creating as it was finally coming together. I added the finishing touches through highlighting the facial features, and before I knew it, a piece of art that had gotten me so overly stressed and miserable, turned out to be wonderful.

By the end of the assignment, I felt enlightenment and happiness in my work, and very confident in what I had created. My wood now tells a story of two mothers holding their children, afraid of letting go and allowing them to be free and let out into a world where they are to be left making decisions without reassurance from their mother that it is okay.



Laura Lee Harris Reflection
By Autumn Crisafulli

Over the past few weeks me and my class have been researching about you life and learning about your style of artwork. We have written reports about you and have created our own works of art by using your technique and style. Your works have inspired me to get in touch with my spirit and the Mother Nature. Your pieces have also inspired me, for our art CPT, when it comes to looking deep within the wood. At first it was hard for me to see things within the wood and to listen to what the wood was telling me. It felt embarrassing taking out every piece of wood in Home Depot and studying it, but then I decided to ignore what was happening around me and concentrate only on the wood and their grains. I searched and searched and searched until I found the perfect one; the piece that really spoke to me, the piece where objects were jumping out at me telling me to paint them. I had found my wood now I had to express its true feelings. The very first day of in class work period was the day where I figured out where everything was going to go and the colours I would use to enhance each being within. The next day was time to paint I was very nervous with making the first stroke but I did it and I was able to bring out the grains. Once I had finished with my background and foreground I had trouble figuring out what was missing from my piece because to me it looked plain and ordinary. I asked my teacher and fellow class mates what I could add and they helped me realize that I should bring out the main objects and use white paint to blend the colours. It worked and my art didn't look as plain anymore. It was the end of the week and had to hand in my piece. I was happy with what I had completed but I felt that it I had more time I could really express all the feelings of the grains. This form of art is very expressive and spiritual and I greatly enjoyed working on my own wood pieces.



Remember Me
By: Laura Lee Harris

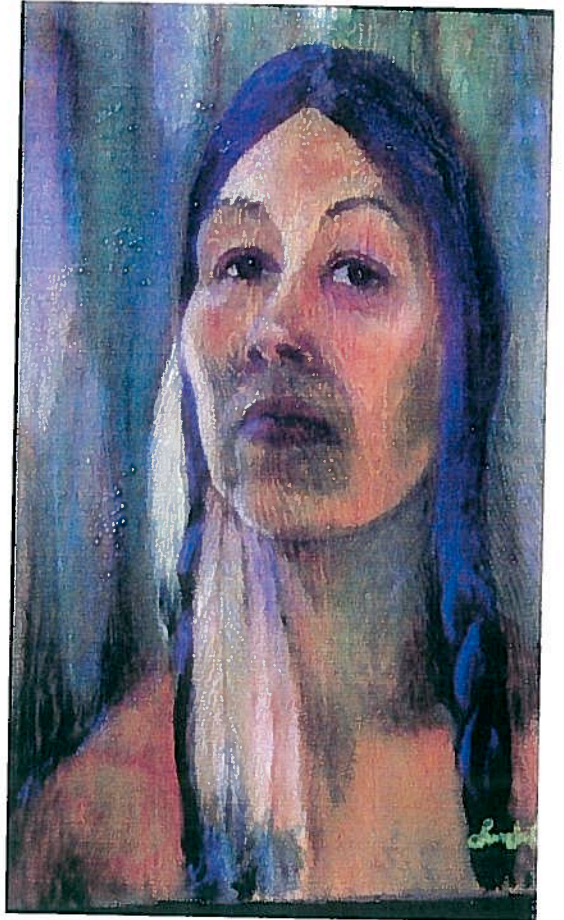
It was this piece that truly inspired me to become one with my spiritual side and to let go of my stress. It inspired me to be more relaxed and to not get so wound up in life.

Mark Moliterni

LauraLee's artwork has inspired me to not only look at wood differently, but to look at all objects differently. I can now see how you can make art out of almost anything, for example a few messy objects on your desk could make for an interesting photograph. LauraLee's artwork and style have taught me to think outside the box of painting on only paper. I like painting on wood because it almost tells you what to paint, so you get to merge with nature to create a piece of art.

LauraLee inspired my piece, *One with Nature*, through her piece, *Spirits Ingrained In Me*. Before I saw this painting I never really had much interest in Aboriginal culture, but it demonstrated to me the importance of it, and the meaning behind their way of live. this motivated me to create my painting, which symbolizes the importance of the Chief. The Chief leads his people into understanding nature, and teaches them their way of life. My painting illustrates the Chief, in a soft, meditative state.

I think LauraLee has made a difference in Canadian art by opening up both her viewers and other artists to ~~new forms of art that are very expressive.~~ By looking at LauraLee's art you feel a lot of emotions, both the ones she is expressing for herself and the ones which you receive from the painting. Also, I think by combining poetry with her paintings she is giving you a more complete view of what she was thinking when she created that piece and it helps her to reach a wider range of people who will understand and appreciate her art.



My Discovery of a true Canadian artist

By: Samantha Mariani

Upon completion of my art CPT, inspired by Lauralee Harris, I have developed an appreciation and understanding for her artwork. It is an original and creative way to express emotions and stories on to a piece of wood. With her native heritage as an inspiration, she manages to convey a profound message through each of her unique pieces.

Harris has greatly impacted Canadian art because she opened up new doors for future artists who want to aspire to create something new and non-traditional.

With her artwork as an inspiration, I have managed to create a piece that tells a story through the grains of the wood. Using different ethnicities as my story, I have managed to blend all the different cultures together, just as Lauralee Harris celebrates different cultures within her own heritage.

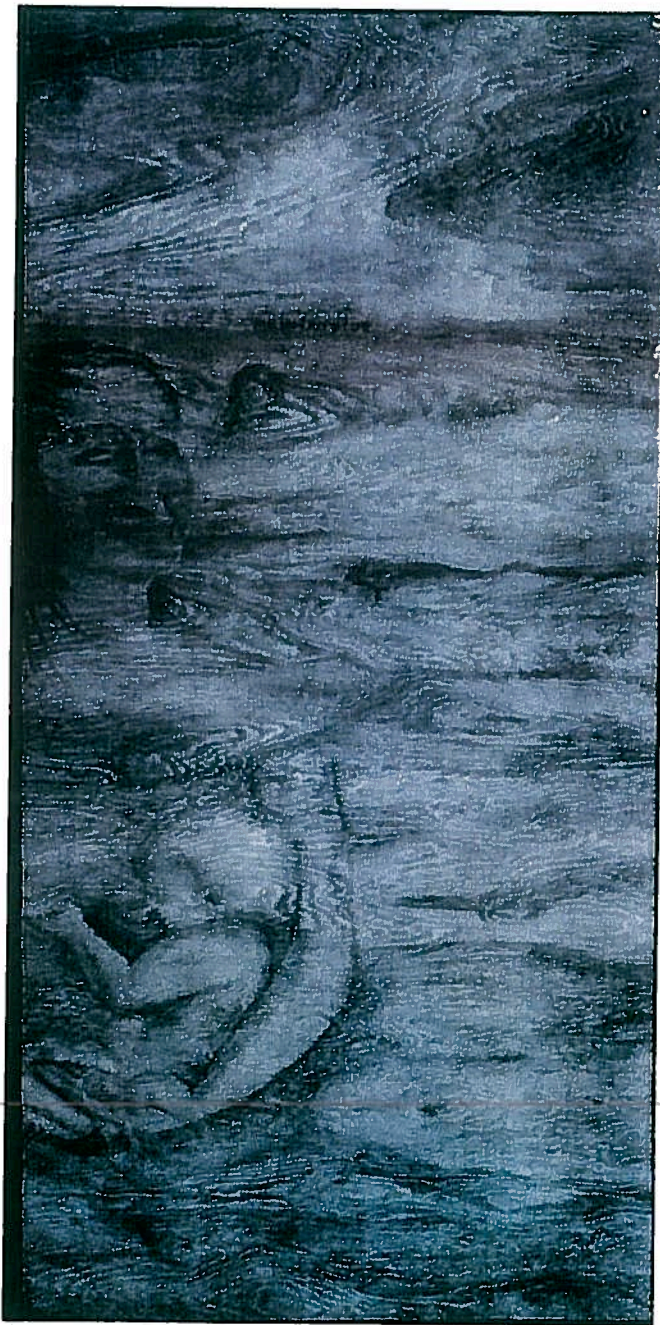
Thanks to the works of Lauralee Harris, I now look at wood and search for a story within the grains.



Lauralee's artwork is very unique and meaningful. Before beginning my piece, I reflected on her art pieces and how she looked within the lines of the wood to find her image. Before painting over my wood, I looked at it from a number of angles to try and find an image that would be unique from everyone else's. The image that kept shouting at me was the bull that's seen in the foreground. Then I noticed a waterfall in the background, with rocks below it. I used the lines of the wood as a guide for the colours. At first I was confused about how to do the sky seeing as how it looks to be melting or falling. That gave me the idea for the falling sky line in my poem.

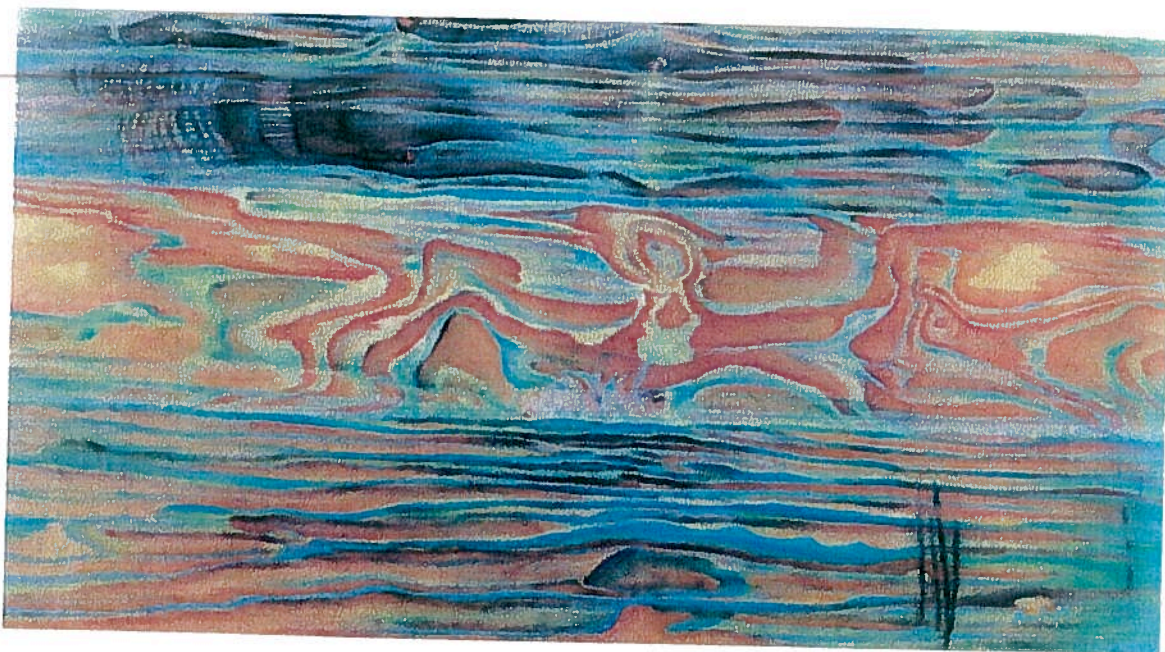
I personally believe Lauralee's art to be very meaningful. Every piece has its own depth and design. My favorite piece is "Mother Daughter Walk." I like this piece most because of its meaning. To me it reflects upon the struggle women have gone through to get where we are today in the world. I am all for equality and that is why this piece fascinates me. It captures the gentleness and kind-heartedness of women.

As you can tell, I greatly appreciate the artwork of Lauralee. I find it unique, fascinating, and it contains magnificent depth. She is great at what she does and should never stop inspiring people.



By: Chelsea Pisano

There are many forms of art: sketching, animation, sculpting and many many more. However the thing about these other art forms is that they can be very frustrating at times. They don't come out as expected. This form of art that Laura Lee Harris has brought into my life is very calming to the mind. Though out the course of making this piece I felt as if I was letting off stress from my long days at school, as if were a vacuum cleaner just sucking all my stress and problems from my head. This project is really nice instead of telling the paper what is going to be drawn or painted the art work talks to you and says hey this is what you see and this is what you should paint. By doing this assignment I have realized that there are many ways to look at something as simple as a piece of wood. Within the grains of the wood one might see a person, faces, fish, or even just a plain landscape. By doing this you can reflect what you have painted to how you are feeling. On this assignment even if you make a mistake you can easily turn your piece, like the piece that I created, I was just practicing on the technique to do this assignment on the back of my wood and it turned out really nice. This project teaches us all a grate lesson; if and when we make mistakes we should resolve it the best way possible. This art task takes us further into our minds and lets us express the way we really feel deep inside; both spiritually and emotionally.



My reflection of Laura Lee Harris

Before painting on the piece of wood, I searched and looked over Laura Lee's website. Going through her art work/gallery. It gave me a lot of ideas of how I'm doing my painting. You could tell each painting has a meaning into it. Her paintings are very inspirational because it shows us her aboriginal background, and looking at her painting makes me feel like I'm in the painting. So when I started my painting I wanted to add the same vibe. You use a lot of colours in her painting and blending is one of her techniques. So I decided to do a lot of that in my painting.

I also love how she used the idea of painting on wood, unlike any other artist, what she paints on reflects on her actual painting. Using wood makes it have a "natural" sense to the painting. By following the grains of the wood is a very creative idea. It seems like the wood is telling the artist what to do, but its up to the artist to imagine it and paint it out. It feels like each wood has its own story to tell, it has its own image. Unlike any other artists, her painting is unique and inspiring.

Mariam Chan

My Reflection of LauraLee Harris

LauraLee Harris's paintings are very inspirational and eye capturing. The gallery was amazing. The gallery that caught my attention was "A Deeper Look Inside" 2002. It showed each of her pictures clearly and easily. The pictures were very eye catching; you would have to actually take a good look at the picture to determine what it is that is hiding in the background. Each poem that goes along with the painting gives us a better understanding, which I love.

LauraLee Harris has very unique paintings, which inspired me to create my piece of art on wood for a canvas. The great attention she uses in her detail gave me several ideas that I could paint. I decided to paint my picture using the lines and grains from the wood. I knew that you always said, along with my teacher Ms. Capelet that the wood chooses the picture, not you. As I looked at my piece of wood, I noticed that the lines clearly resembled the water, with a sky. But the sky had something interesting about it. Almost like there was the Northern lights in the sky, or some type of interesting stars. I used those lines to my advantage and added neat things to the picture.

My experience with using wood as my canvas was very interesting, but highly enjoyable. I would love to sue this idea again. Also, it would not have been as inspirational or interesting if it weren't for our learning experience about LauraLee Harris.



By: Alyssa Kamienik

The Art: Experience and Reflection

By: Martina Lake

The process of completing my artwork was both challenging and amusing. I found that when working with these materials your creativity was limited. Once I found out how I would approach the wood it was much easier to start painting and work with the piece. The grains and lines in the wood created a challenge to outline a specific scene in the natural lines contrasting my own ideas. After I was past searching for hidden images in the wood I rather enjoyed using the paints to create natural images including the original lines. The blended colours left the final product with a subtle finish.



Traveling the Medicine Wheel by Laura Lee Harris

My Reflection on Lauralee Harris

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.



< "Medicine Wheel" by Lauralee Harris

If I were talking to someone who did not know about Lauralee Harris and her style of art, I would start off by 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 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.

-Ruby-Anne Kakoutis

Patrick Arnone

Seeing your work, and actually attempting to copy your style of art has changed a bit of my attitude when it comes to painting. Even though I may not always paint on wood, I still now keep the new skill that I learned from painting on wood and using your techniques. One of the techniques I learned was painting in one direction to make the painting cleaner and not as rough. Practicing your style of painting also helped me look at my canvas, and to sort of read it, so I get an idea of what I'm going to create.



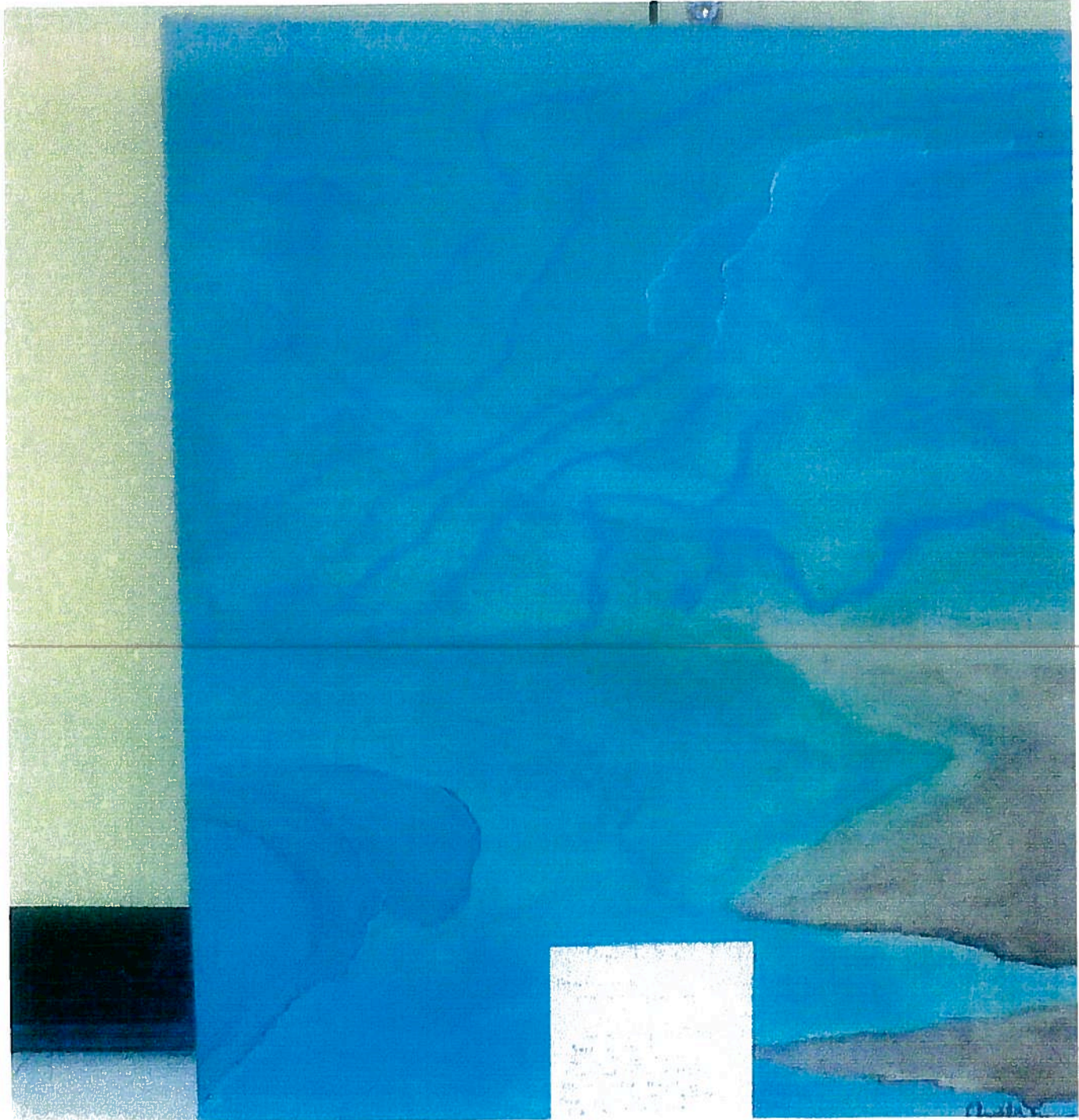
This painting right here is my favorite piece that you have done. I love how you made the brush strokes in your piece seem as if there was a really strong wind pushing against the horses. I also love how you added the horses in the background, and the colours you used to put your piece together. It's an incredible piece.

ANGELA JACOVOU'S - ANGELS IN BLUE

In this art piece that I did I got very personal while painting it. I was feeling very calm and a bit gloomy but at the same time I felt like everything is going to work out. My painting is a lot of blues and greens and that was representing my gloomy calm feeling but then the faces in the sky and in the water was representing how I new people were watching over me helping me get threw everything and that everything will work out in the end. I named my piece angels in blue because even when you are feeling down or in a bit of trouble there is always a bright side, there is always an angel watching over you to get you threw the day.

Also when I looked at my wood the first thing I saw was a nice horizon I new then I wanted to do something with scenery like water and a nice blue sky so that is what I did. Then I kept flipping it around and I notice these 3 distinct faces and that's what I made in the sky and after a while I saw it in the water. This painting experience was something I am happy I got because not only did I learn about my self I learned about another amazing writer name LauraLee Harris she did all her work with wood and it was nice to see how creative and how much time she must have to put in to her work. I have a lot of respect for this artist and I hope to have the same creativeness one day as she does.

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My Artwork

By: Julia

When painting my artwork on wood for my CPT, I didn't have anything in particular in mind to paint. I actually ended up with the wrong kind of wood. I needed one with grains in it. But I went ahead anyways and "painted up a storm". I used a lot of blue green colours keeping it on the cool side. My painting didn't give you a feeling or send any message. By the end, it was just sky with water and two alligators. There was pretty much nothing to it. I decided to change my wood and get ones with a lot better grains in it. This is where I started off my masterpiece. Instead of using cool colours to decided to go opposite and use the warm colours: red, yellow, orange and white. I painted lines through the grains to make them stand out as much as possible. The end result was an abstract piece. I didn't want to make some sort of object like the rest of the class out more of a feeling. The whole point of my art was to get a feeling and sense when you looked at it, like an emotion. When you look at it you can have all these different feelings of the artwork, such as happiness and comfort from the warm colours, or something even like confusion when looking at all the lines randomly in place.

I got my idea from some of Lauralee's artwork. I noticed that all of her work has some kind of person place or object in it, whether it's the main part of whether it's blended in with an abstract design. I decided to go for the abstract with nothing hiding in it. She inspired me to really dig deep in those grains when painting my artwork.

The Breeze Of The Sunset

By: Stephanie
Karellas

My painting, The Breeze of the Sunset, was incredible to paint as it allowed me to express my self on many different levels. I expressed myself using things like learning different ways to make texture and use a variety of colours. I have never had the experience of painting on wood before and it proved to be an exciting challenge. I got to learn many different techniques that I didn't know before and they have defiantly improved my painting abilities.

The painting process of this piece was very time-consuming. It was very frustrating to get my ideas together to follow the grain i learned to look at wood in a different way and appreciated the technique it brought out.

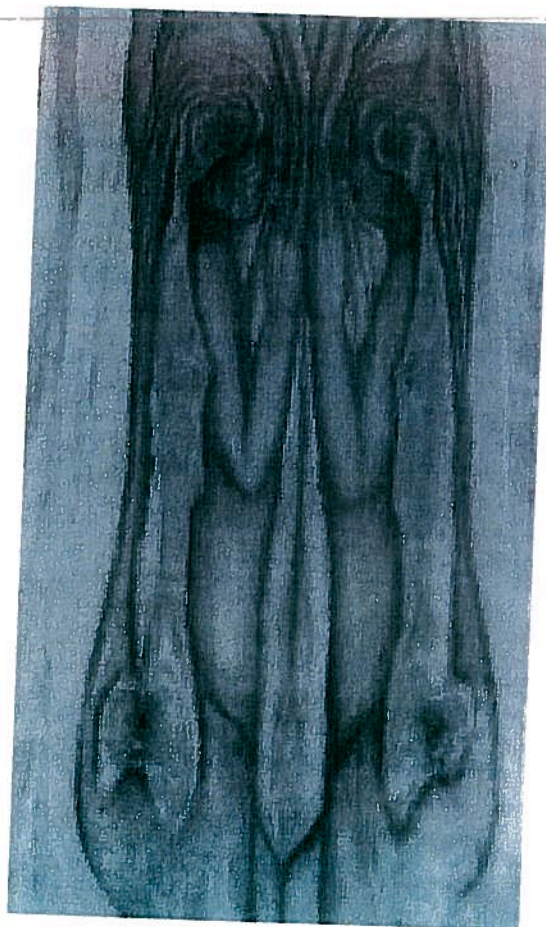
Lauralee was a good inspiration to me because she taught me many different things. Because of her I learned a new style and technique of painting that fascinated me. I learned about a new culture and how they followed there traditions of art. Lauralee should be recognized as a new inspiration to artists/painters today.



My Journey Creating The Tree of Fire by Federica

My journey was an incredible experience, which I learned a lot from. My painting is very creative and unusual, but it is very interesting. Creating my piece of art was very frustrating from time to time, but after I was able to transpose my ideas into my art of work and creating something so nice and original, then everything started to come together in to what now is my painting. Over all this experience was very fun and inspiring.

One of the things that I got from this whole process was a greater appreciation for wood and the beauty of aboriginal art as well as for nature it self. Lauralee has helped me to spend my borders of imaginations. now I can say that I made I painting on wood by using my creativity by following the grains of the wood.



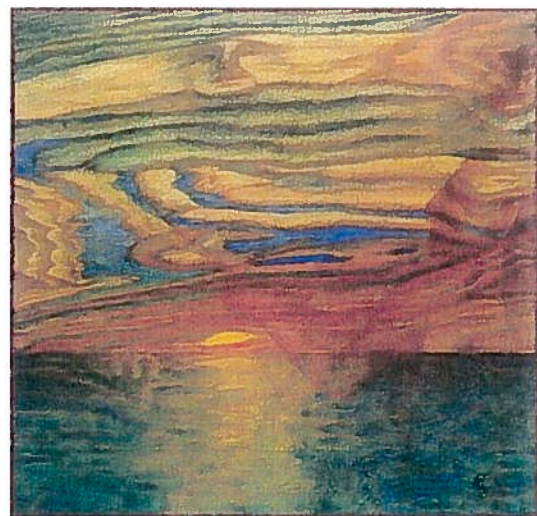
LauraLee Harris

Dear LauraLee Harris,

Your work is truly amazing.

The way you can see a whole vision in a piece of wood is amazing. My first time using your technique was very difficult. It was very difficult for me to find a picture or scenery through grains of wood. After finding a picture or scenery in my piece of wood I found the rest really enjoyable. Making the grains show up was kind of difficult at first because when the paint dried the grains weren't that visible. Later on I fixed that problem by applying less paint, more water and wiping off excess paint/water with a paper towel.

I think your work is the most unique type of artwork I've seen. The way you make the grains stand out so much is incredible. And not only do you do amazing artwork, you also create astonishing poems that go with your work. I love how you can add random things like faces or people into your painting and it fits so well. Your work is inspiring, creative, and unique. I enjoyed your galleries on your website which was amazing to look at all the different designs and portraits.



By: Jonathan Patitucci

MY JOURNEY CREATING "LOST IN THE WIND"

Catalina Contreras

Having the chance of being able to experience what is like to work with wood and try to make aboriginal art was an inspiring activity which we will all remember and in some different level learn something new about our self's as an artist. This process of work was very stressful at the beginning because it was hard for me to express my visions on the wood, while using the grains as my guide.

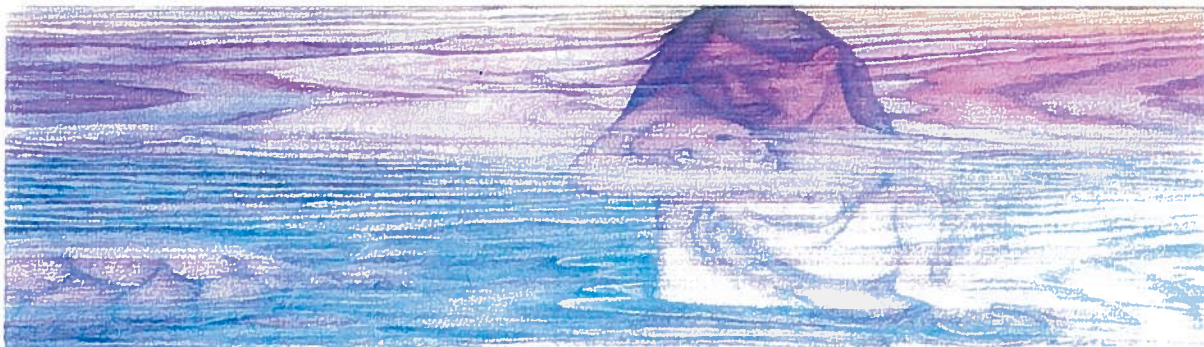
After I got started I got very much into the technique and couldn't stop my self from painting, you just go into another place and forget about everything around you. All you can think of is your piece of wood and what your doing with it. Overall it was a very fun assignment, which left me with a new view for art while learning a new technique and a way of expression. It was a very inspirational activity, which I can see my self-doing again.

Laura lee Harris has made many difference in Canadian art, because she is giving her own originality and aboriginal feeling by showing it through her art, also because is showing how beautiful nature is and how you can work with it and make a new technique



Laura Lee K. Harris Reflection
Final Assignment

Over the last 2 or 3 weeks we have been learning about you and the different style of artwork you came up with. We have been answering questions about you, and creating our own pieces of artwork using your technique. The way that you paint inspires not only me, but many other people to try and think of their own ways to paint. It has also brought me to look deeper inside of wood pieces to try and see the message across the piece of wood that is just waiting to be recognized. When I went to Home Depot to pick up a piece of wood that I felt was perfect, it took me quiet a while to see something in the picture because I was in a total rush. Finally after glancing at 5 – 8 pieces of wood, I finally found the perfect one. I looked deeply inside the grains and it was like the wood was speaking to me and all of the sudden it came to me, and this was the piece that I was going to paint. The first day when we started to paint, I planned out how I wanted to use my colours and what I was going to mix. On the second day is when I got nervous because I had to start painting my piece and I didn't think that it was going to turn out well so I asked our volunteers for a little bit of help to get me started. From there on I was okay and then I got my piece finished. Once I was about finished I had asked my peers if there was anything else that needed touching up or adding to. They told me to make my sky a little darker. I took the black and a bit of water and added it to my piece which created a darker scene to it. Your artwork has inspired me to look deeper inside art and the true meaning of it. Your techniques probably inspired many including me to try and working harder to achieve our goals.



This picture inspired me most because the way the grains are moving through the mother and the child looks almost like they are slowly fading away with the grains which gives the painting a nice relaxing motion.

By: Anthony Fera

I ADMIRE YOUR WORK, YOU
INSPIRE ME.

- ANTHONY PRONISSA

You do amazing art
- Patrick Amore.



Your work is amazing.
Thanks for coming to our
school. - Roman

Your work is amazing
- Martina

You are
a very
inspiring artist
- Emily Whelan

Lauralee! ;)
You inspired
me so much
when painting
my picture.
I feel you are
very creative with
painting with the
grains of wood.

Your art work inspired
me to work hard on
making my painting
personal.
- Angela

- Julia Iannaci

Wow! it's amazing
that I can finally
see you inspire me and
me explore art even further.
Your amazing, Thanks
for coming! ;)

- Mariam Chan

Thank you for
coming up with painting
on wood it's really cool
I like it a lot.

You have inspired me
to get in touch
with my spirit! Thank
you for coming!
Autumn

Your work is very inspiring
and you have allowed me to
open my mind and explore
art, especially all of my
paintings.
Alyssa