



I started to explore various arts in 1999, as a way to overcome personal fears. One of these was a nightmare I had as a child. This dream is a parable of my life: ``I'm at the bottom of a well, looking up. I see the Sesame Street puppets with their mouths opening and closing. I have a feeling of no way out. I can't yell for help, because no one understands my speech. This is such a feeling of helplessness!``

I am Deaf. I have difficulty speaking and using sign language coherently because of a brain injury at birth. I use a portable device which speaks when I type out written English. I also utilize email and sign language interpreters to communicate,

Creating is my way to express my soul-voice in a way to which others can hear and respond. When I creates, it feels like something spiritual guides me. I need to continue on my spiritual path, and that is through expressing myself. Art connects me to my Spiritual Self. My art flows from my Spiritual Self.

I am self taught. I work mostly with watercolour, ink, and use other media. I am formerly a potter, writer, poet, actress, dancer, music composer, and musician. I created, wrote, produced, and directed a video. I sometimes mix these media to create something. Each piece of my art is unique; I paint slowly and meticulously for one, and fast and impatient for another. Each has its own personality: One will have vibrant, wild, lush colours, and another will have shy, withdrawn, tame, muted colours. Some are whimsical, and others are serious. My work shows how I feel right at the moment of creation.

I have different inspirations: a memory, a movie, an image, another piece of art, visions, words, myself, an event, and my cat! What will come out, I never knows. My preferred subjects include, but not limited to: nature, magic, and my cat.

I was involved with an art experience group from 2002 until 2004. This enabled me to explore my creativity in a supportive environment with other Deaf women artists. This weekly group acted as a springboard to encourage me to take professional classes and to show my art publicly.

Since 2002, my work has been exhibited in several galleries, including: the CityScape Art Space, the Artists Helping Artists in Burnaby, a Deaf art show at the Vancouver Community College, the Harmony Arts Festival, the RoundHouse Community Centre and a gallery in Quebec City! I

am excited with the growing interest in my work and my evolution as an artist. I contributed a chapter to a book about alternative and augmented ways of communicating. I won awards for academic study and for composition in music. In 2004, I published a book that I wrote AND illustrated.

I am self-taught, but I take courses to improve my skill. I took classes from Vancouver School Board, Kwantlen College, North Vancouver Continuing Education, and Video In Studios. I studied painting at the Bad Dog Arts Studio in North Vancouver, under Elizabeth Harris - Nichols. Last fall, I earned my second certificate from Emily Carr University's Continuing Education. The first certificate is in Fine Arts Techniques, the second is in Drawing. I hold a Bachelor`s degree from Gallaudet University, the world`s only liberal arts university for the Deaf.

Through my images, I can be heard. I believe this is my way to freedom, and spirituality. Most importantly, art is my way out of that well. I reside in West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.