



The Seven Grandfather Teachings

The Indigenous Gallery, located in the culture display cabinet at the Orillia Recreation Centre, is a dedicated exhibition space developed in partnership between the City of Orillia and the Orillia Museum of Art & History (OMAH). Artworks featured in the gallery are thoughtfully selected by Indigenous artists, showcasing a range of creative expressions that honor cultural traditions, contemporary perspectives, and deep connections to the land. Through rotating displays, visitors can experience diverse art forms, including visual art, traditional crafts, and modern interpretations. This space fosters learning, reflection, and dialogue, while celebrating Indigenous voices and ensuring their stories are shared and appreciated within the Orillia community.

Many of the works displayed in the gallery are available for purchase. For inquiries or purchases, visit the Orillia Recreation Centre's front desk or call 705-330-6479.

Please note that as part of a curated exhibition, purchased items will remain on display until the exhibit concludes.



WE ACKNOWLEDGE

The museum acknowledges our presence on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg. The Anishinaabeg include the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomi nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. We respect and observe the long and enduring presence of Indigenous Peoples – First Nations, Metis and Inuit – on this land. Their teachings and stewardship, culture and way of life have shaped our City's unique identity.

The Seven Grandfather Teachings

"The Seven Grandfather Teachings" exhibition, is a powerful celebration of Indigenous artistry and cultural heritage. This exhibition invites viewers to explore the profound wisdom of the Seven Grandfather Teachings—Zaagiwewin (love), Mnaadendmowin (respect), Zoongde'ewin (bravery), Gwekwaadziwin (honesty), Dbasendmowin (humility), Nbwaakaawin (wisdom), and Debwewin (truth)—through the creative expressions of talented Indigenous artists.

Created in partnership with the City of Orillia and the **Orillia Museum of Art & History (OMAH)**, the exhibition features eight thought-provoking works by six artists from Orillia and surrounding areas. Many pieces are priced and available for sale, offering a unique opportunity to support the artists and bring a meaningful work of art into your own space. Located in the culture display case at the Orillia Recreation Centre, the exhibit is scheduled to be on display from December 2024 - June 2025.

FEATURED ARTISTS

Artist

Title of Work

Dillon Bickell

Quillbox

Snake Tattoo

Floral Medallion

Monica Loney

Untitled

Jessica Martin

Berry Fringe

Malia Mathias - Mizzi

I Have a Story Worth Telling

Drake Williams

7 Generations

7 Generations

Drake Williams
2024

Oil on Canvas
24" x 30"
\$1000

In my interpretation of the Seven Grandfather Teachings, I've depicted 7 unique faces of our Ojibwe ancestors, each representing a different principle of the Grandfather teachings. The colours and shapes on their faces represent their stories. I created my painting also acknowledging the Seven Generations Principle, the traditional concept that we must always be thankful for the seven generations of our ancestors that came before us, and we must continue maintaining our traditions for the generations that come after us.



Untitled

Monica Loney

Acrylic on Canvas
16" x 20"
\$200

She basks in the moonlight trusting the unknown, for she is being guided by the teachings of her ancestors; living the human experience with dignity and truths.



Floral Medallion

Dillon Bickell
2022

Quillwork; porcupine quills in birchbark, edged with sweetgrass and backed with deer hide.
2.5" dia., 0.25" thick
Not for Sale

The floral on this medallion is one of the common designs you'll see in traditional Indigenous quillwork in our geographic area. For me, this flower is a reminder of Mother Earth's beautiful gifts. It is important to remember that when we allow a flower to remain in the ground, we are demonstrating respect and humility, as well as ensuring we can observe its natural beauty. For once it is plucked from its home, it will die.

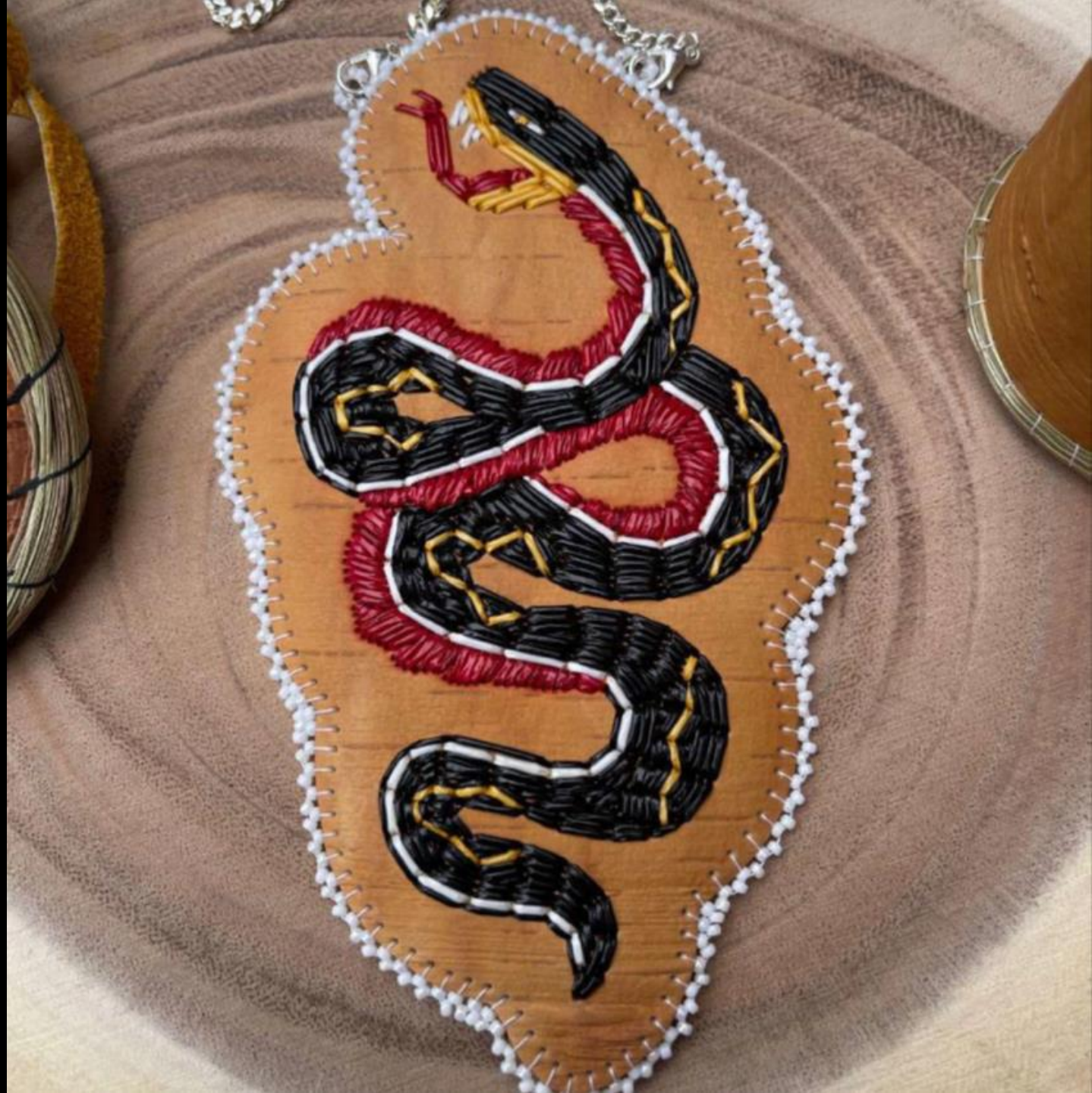


Tattoo Snake

Dillon Bickell
2024

Quillwork; porcupine quills in birchbark, edged with seed beads and backed with golden pigskin leather.
3.75" wide, 6.25" long w 5.5" chain
Not for Sale

The four colours of the medicine wheel (white, yellow, red, and black) were purposefully chosen for this piece, as I felt combining the modern design with the traditional colours was a respectful way to honour where this art form began and where it has the potential to go. I also show my respect and love for this traditional craft by offering the sacred medicine semaa (tobacco) when harvesting, and by thanking each living being (porcupine, birch tree, sweetgrass, etc.) for allowing us to use them in a good way.



Quillbox

Dillon Bickell
2023

Quillwork; porcupine quills in birchbark, edged with sweetgrass.
2.5" dia., 2.25" tall
Not for Sale

This quillbox is the first one I ever created. I reflect on the circular nature of the quillbox, edged with the sacred medicine wiingashk (sweetgrass), and think of the medicine wheel. The medicine wheel teaches us that all things – like the seasons and time – move in a circle, never stopping or ending. I feel that the sweetgrass I incorporated into this piece is representative of this circular movement, reflective of life, and connects both myself and the viewer to the limitless wisdom of our Anishinaabe teachings.



Berry Fringe

Jessica Martin

Sterling Silver, Silk, Glass Beads
7cm x 3cm
\$125

My artwork is a culmination of goldsmithing techniques creating form with sterling silver and gold that also pays homage to my roots as a Métis beader. The modern interpretation shows a great strength and wisdom of connecting the past, present and future. My pieces are a work of my lifetime, patiently learning the complex nature to blend metalwork with found items and yet have them be enjoyable to be worn day in and day out.



I Have a Story Worth Telling

Malia Mathias-Mizzi

Acrylic on Canvas
24" x 20"
Not for Sale

This painting represents Zoongde'ewin. It represents the bravery it takes to tell one's story, and to grow from it. The subject is a powwow dancer, which represents bravery, talent, and culture. The style is inspired by 1960's Pop Art and 1990's comic books. This brings a unique mix of modern and traditional styles to Indigenous arts.



Presented by the City of Orillia and
the Orillia Museum of Art & History

