



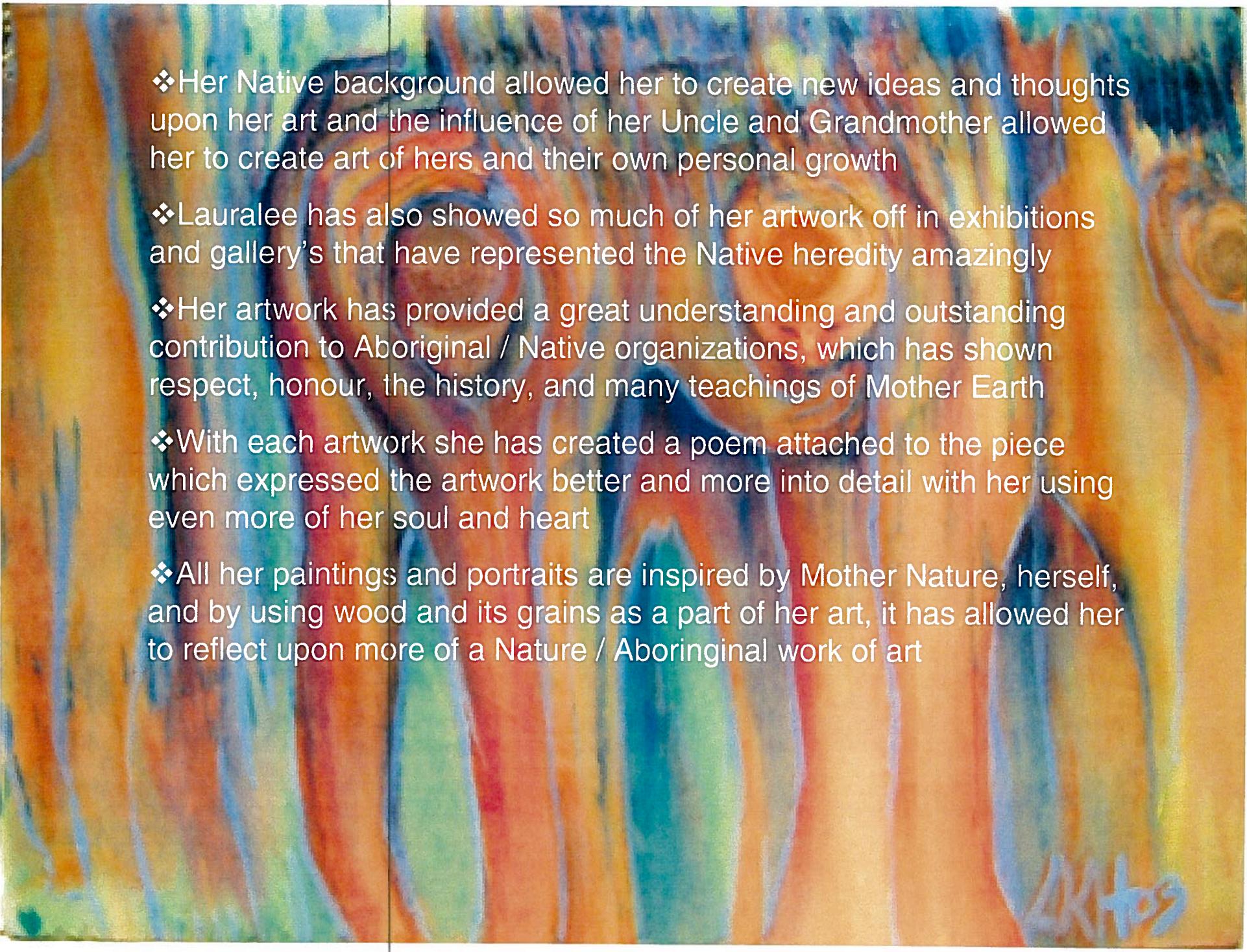
Laurlee K. Harris

“A Deeper Look Inside  
Painting Through the  
Grains”

By: Paula Dajnarowicz

## 1. Point about

- ❖ Laura was taught and inspired by her mother, father and grandmother through their inspired household expressions
- ❖ By the age of 18, she has been to 20 schools because she has moved so many times which lead her to achieve great art skills and also lead her to go to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where her father gave her private lessons in art
- ❖ She has been to three different art schools, that her husband had encouraged here to go to pursue her art even more, which is when she first started with wood-carving, collage and other media art
- ❖ In 1988 she had her first solo exhibition of her art work and she was nominated as an Honour Student at the Ontario College of Art and Design
- ❖ In 1994 she had met an uncle that has changed her life and her way of art because her uncle had told her of her now known Native background

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- ❖ Her Native background allowed her to create new ideas and thoughts upon her art and the influence of her Uncle and Grandmother allowed her to create art of hers and their own personal growth
  - ❖ Lauralee has also showed so much of her artwork off in exhibitions and gallery's that have represented the Native heredity amazingly
  - ❖ Her artwork has provided a great understanding and outstanding contribution to Aboriginal / Native organizations, which has shown respect, honour, the history, and many teachings of Mother Earth
  - ❖ With each artwork she has created a poem attached to the piece which expressed the artwork better and more into detail with her using even more of her soul and heart
  - ❖ All her paintings and portraits are inspired by Mother Nature, herself, and by using wood and its grains as a part of her art, it has allowed her to reflect upon more of a Nature / Aboriginal work of art



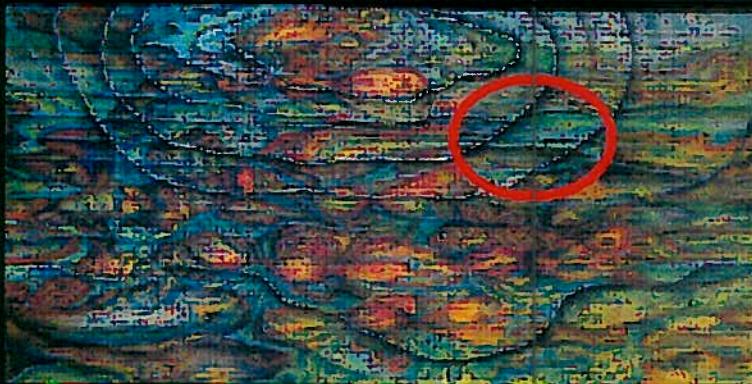
## 2. What Drives Her To Create Such Works of Art?

What I believe drives her to create such works of art is that firstly, when she creates her art her inspiration comes from who she is insides and the heredity that she has figured out. Once she found out what was the story behind her heredity, she decided that to express it through paintings of Native/Aboriginal sceneries and pictures. With the help and influence of her Grandmother and her Uncle, they have inspired her to go out and represent her heredity through paintings. The inspirations that she had were paintings of people, animals, and the land of where she came from. Also her inspirations come from God's creation by using the wood to tell her own stories and culture through the paintings and the poetry. By the influence of her own culture she has created a great representation of which she truly is, by this she has contributed to her own culture and gave them a better representation of who they are and what they stand for in life. By her artwork, many people have give second thoughts of the discrimination of the Native/Aboriginal people.

### 3. Selecting My Favourite Piece of Art She Has Created



"We Are A Voice"



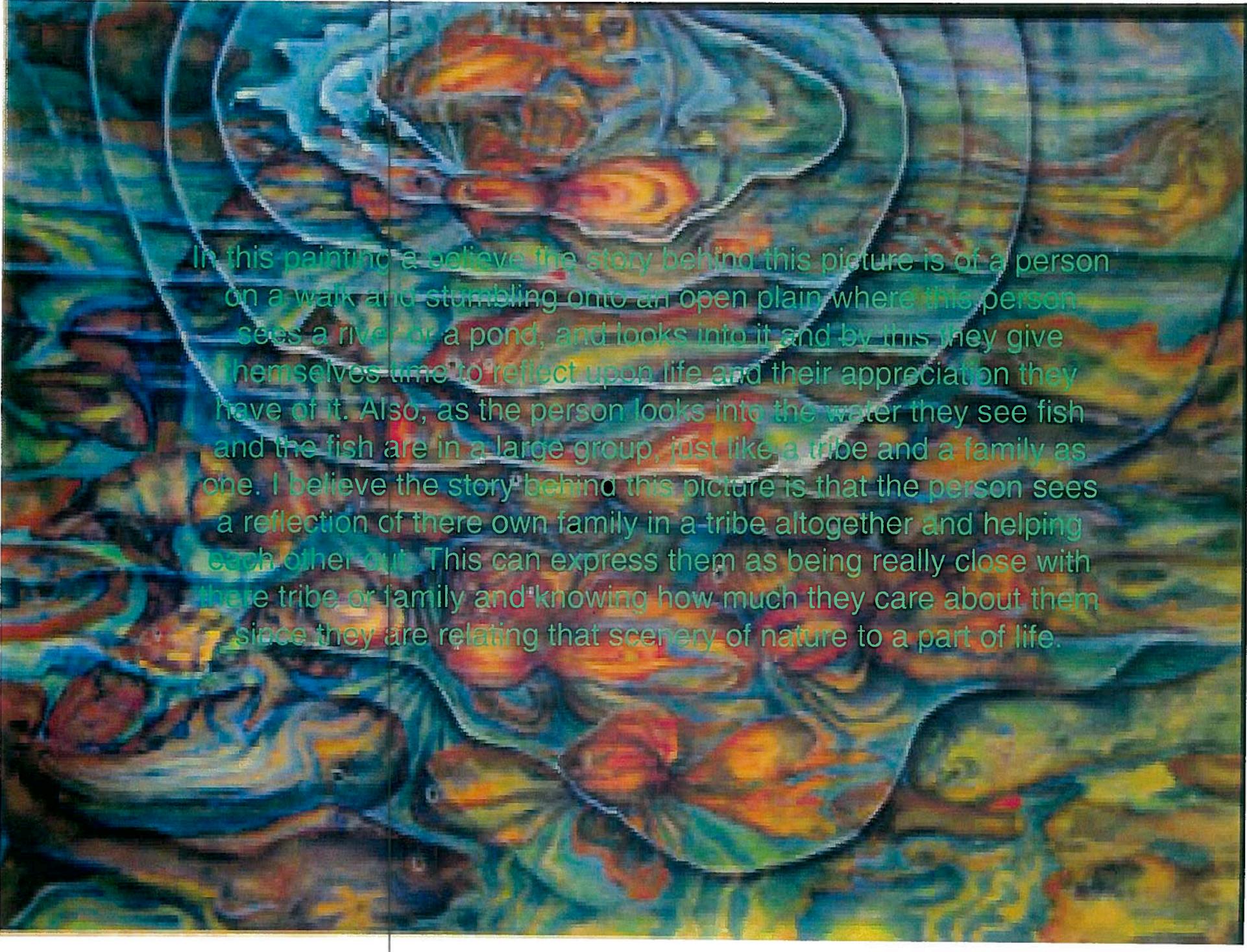
This particular piece of art intrigues me because she has used great work with the grains. For example, on the top of the picture the grains that are in a semi-circular motion, she used them to make a ripple effect in the water. I find that very creative to use the grains to create a ripple effect in water as if we were to see it in real life.



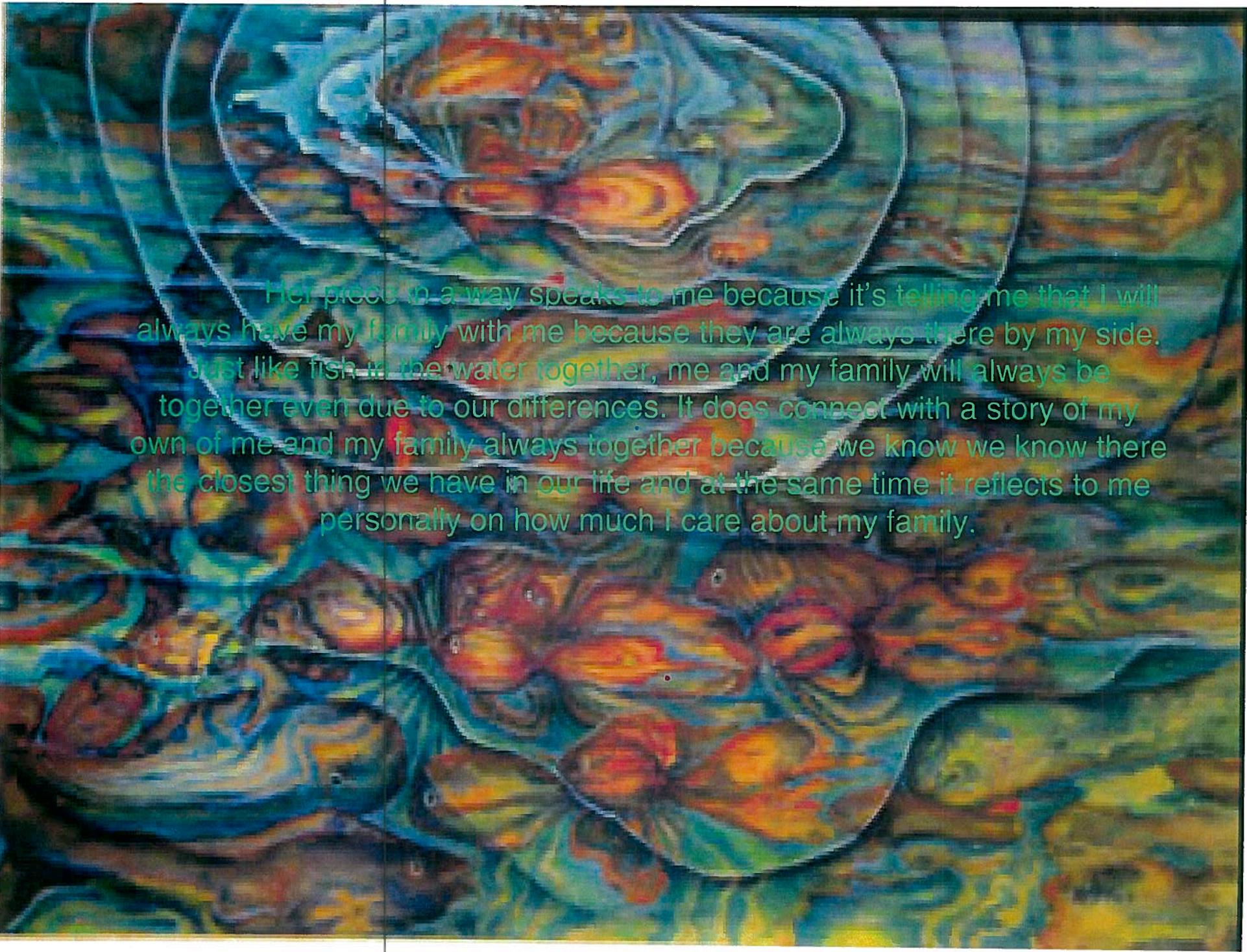
Also, the way she uses the grains near the bottom of the piece of wood she makes also little ripples in the water, to sort of show the reflection of the sun against the water



Another interesting thing she does with the grains is that she uses the larger sections in the grains to make fish in the water, by this she uses a combination of the effect of fish and ripples in the water to come together with a very expressive piece of artwork. In my opinion this is one of my favourite pieces of artwork she's created because the source of colours and technique and especially idea intrigues me and it really makes me love the painting more and more I view it.



In this painting I believe the story behind this picture is of a person on a walk and stumbling onto an open plain where this person sees a river or a pond, and looks into it and by this they give themselves time to reflect upon life and their appreciation they have of it. Also, as the person looks into the water they see fish and the fish are in a large group, just like a tribe and a family as one. I believe the story behind this picture is that the person sees a reflection of there own family in a tribe altogether and helping each other out. This can express them as being really close with there tribe or family and knowing how much they care about them since they are relating that scenery of nature to a part of life.



Her piece in a way speaks to me because it's telling me that I will always have my family with me because they are always there by my side. Just like fish in the water together, me and my family will always be together even due to our differences. It does connect with a story of my own of me and my family always together because we know we know there the closest thing we have in our life and at the same time it reflects to me personally on how much I care about my family.

# 4. My Favourite Poem

Mother Daughter Walk  
by Lauralee K. Harris

Women of the Earth  
The creator's creators  
On this, the creator's creation,  
    Take your heart  
    And turn it inwards.

Warm those places  
That have been cold , hard for so long.  
Hold on to your softness  
    And just be  
    Be - for you  
    And mend your spirit

The silent moon  
That repeats itself  
Is one that beats  
A story in us all

Believe in yourself  
Stand strong through the darkness  
Stand strong through the learning  
    The journey is not long  
    The journey is not over

Beyond all clouds  
    Is a blue forever  
Eternal, vast and much more  
Than we can see for ourselves

Stopped by the clouds  
    We must know  
    In the blue  
    And keep  
    In the blue

For as rain falls as tears  
And feeds our tomorrows,  
Growing tall and flourishing  
    Through it all  
Would be to know  
    The winds journey  
As it moves the clouds  
    In it's own time

It tells a truth  
That the forever blue - is  
    And always was  
The promise beyond the clouds

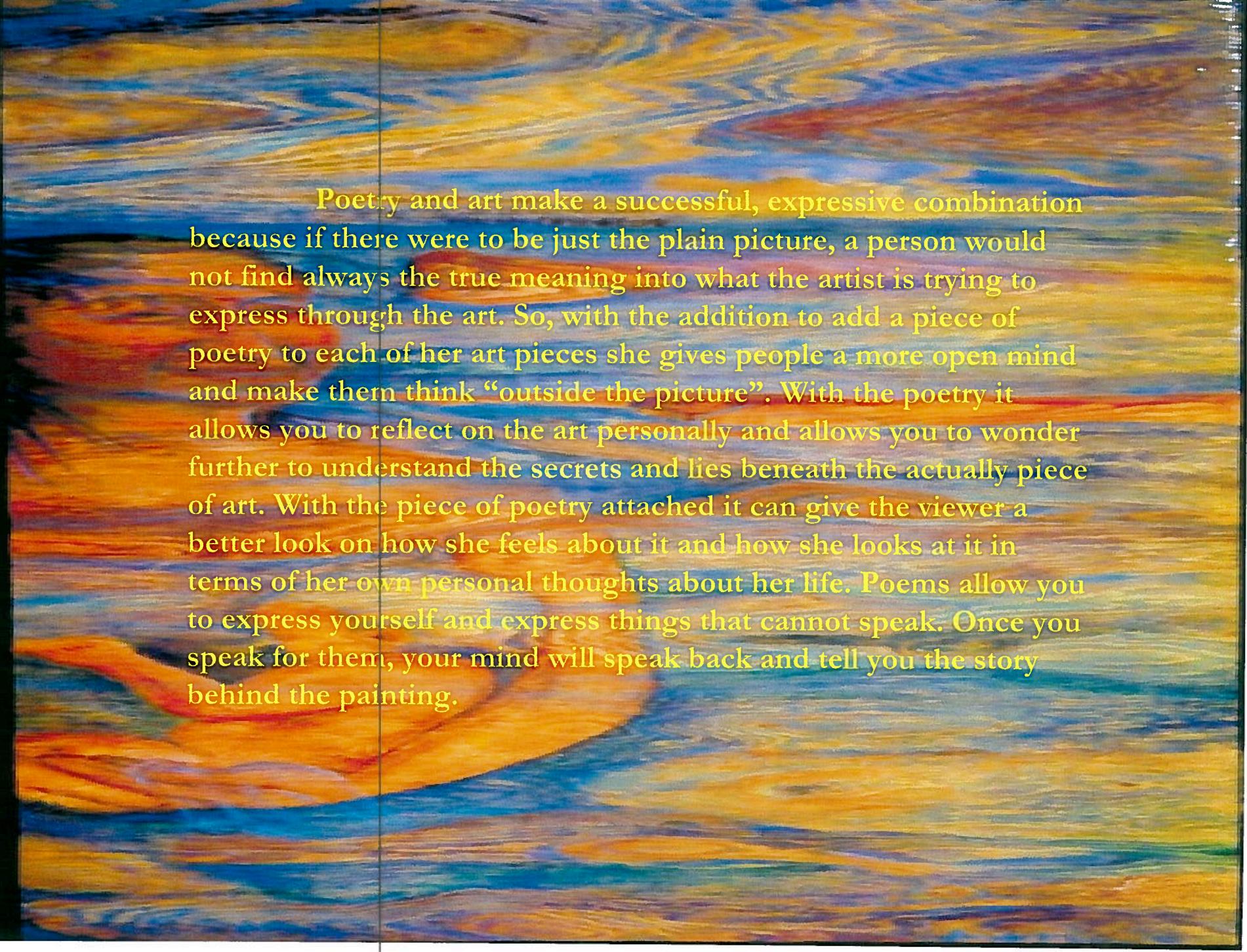
Women of the Earth  
The Mother Daughter Walk  
    In the circle of life  
    Is a healing journey  
And the Healing time has begun

    Take your heart  
    And mend your spirit  
    Take your spirit  
    And mend the heart  
    Of the walking wounded  
To strengthen their journey  
    In this time  
    For they are needed  
    To heal our Mother  
The creator's creation

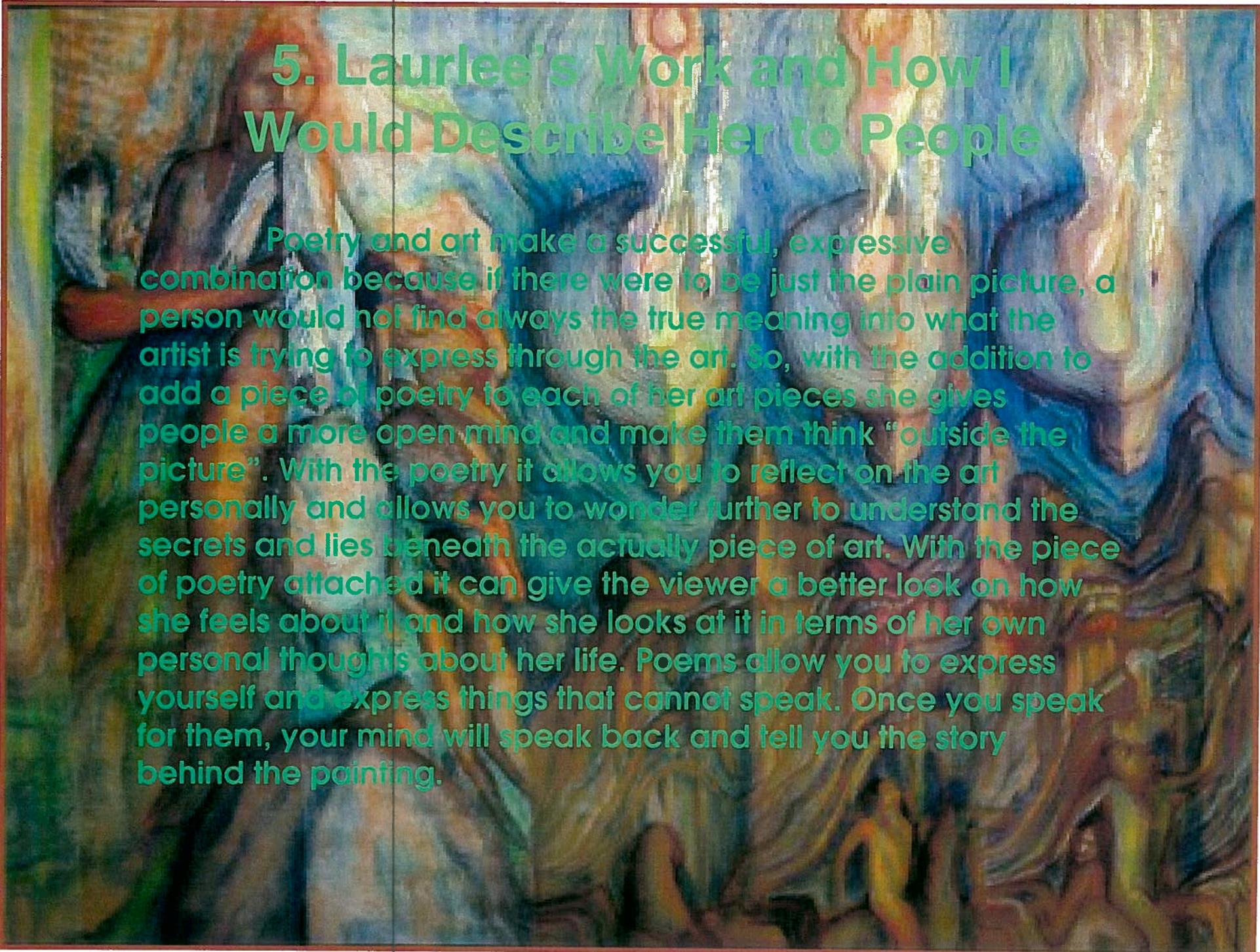
And as Mother Earth, the Creator's Creation  
    Touches our heart and heals our spirit  
    In a warm breeze,  
    An eternal sky,  
    A song in the trees  
    The Mother Daughter Walk,  
Tells of the healing cycle to come.



The reason why I chose this poem is because it reminds me of my mother a lot and my future self. This is because the wording and what she talks about represents a mother and her caring life as being a mother. The message within this poem is telling us as mothers and mothers to be is to stay strong and always fight for your children and for yourself as being a mother. She also explains in the poem is that as mothers your children are always look out for you and that as a mother you should always love your children no matter what. This poem explains to us that being a mother means that you take your pride and dignity and that we are the creators of man kind because without us there wouldn't be people in the world and there wouldn't be always someone to care for you. This poem represents all mothers in general because it gives them a sense of pride and joy that everyone cares about mothers and that all mothers are great and powerful.

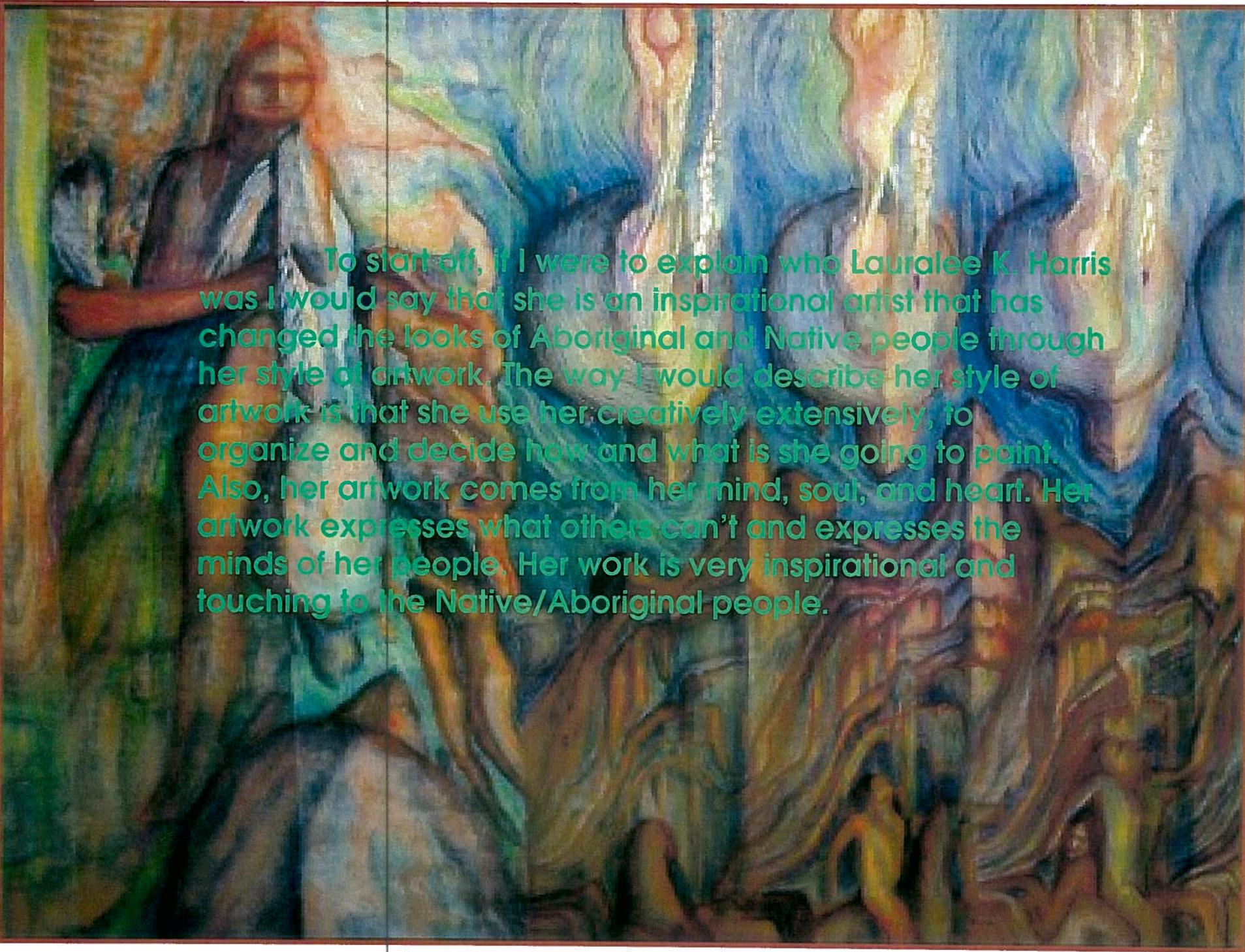


Poetry and art make a successful, expressive combination because if there were to be just the plain picture, a person would not find always the true meaning into what the artist is trying to express through the art. So, with the addition to add a piece of poetry to each of her art pieces she gives people a more open mind and make them think "outside the picture". With the poetry it allows you to reflect on the art personally and allows you to wonder further to understand the secrets and lies beneath the actually piece of art. With the piece of poetry attached it can give the viewer a better look on how she feels about it and how she looks at it in terms of her own personal thoughts about her life. Poems allow you to express yourself and express things that cannot speak. Once you speak for them, your mind will speak back and tell you the story behind the painting.



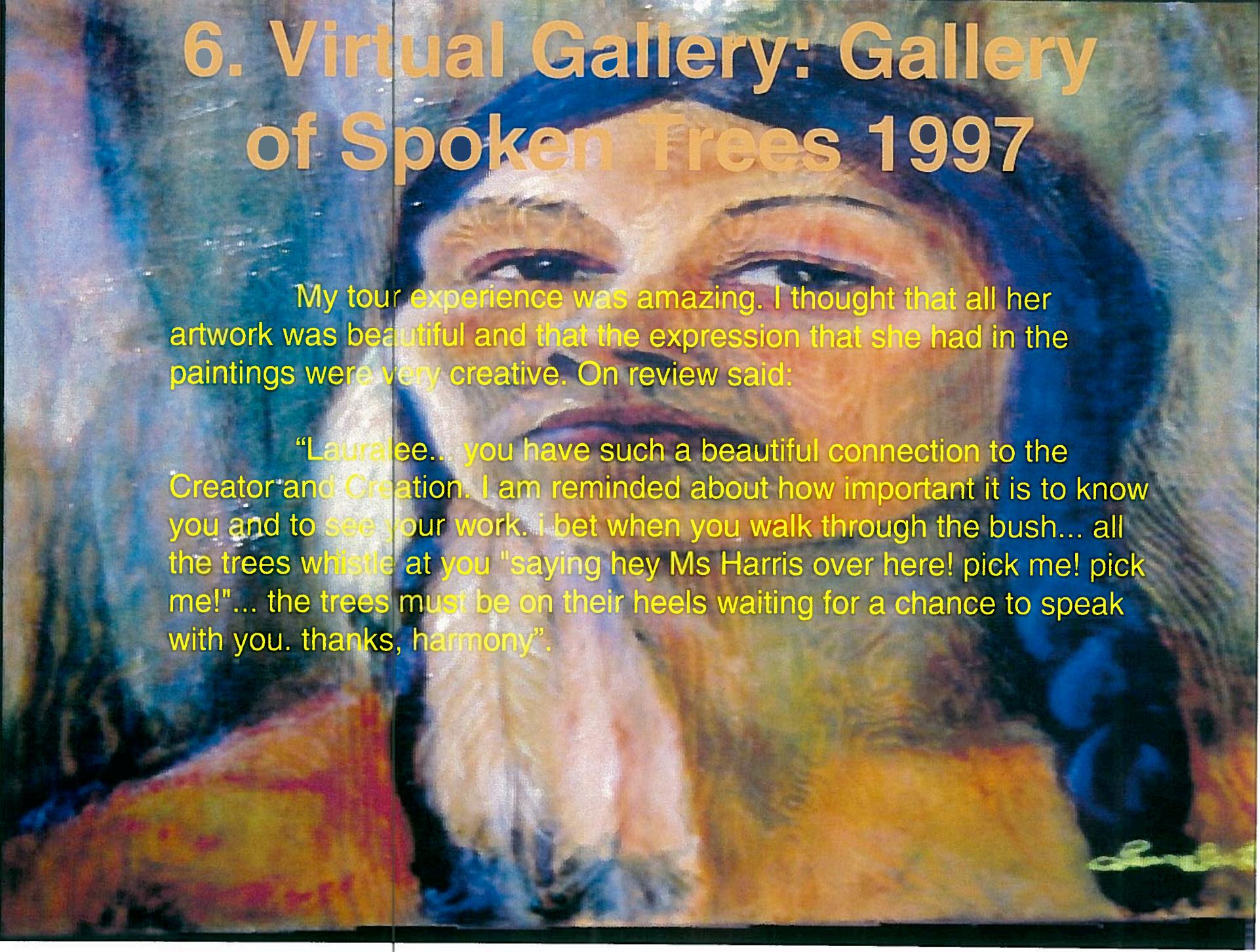
## 5. Laurlee's Work and How I Would Describe Her to People

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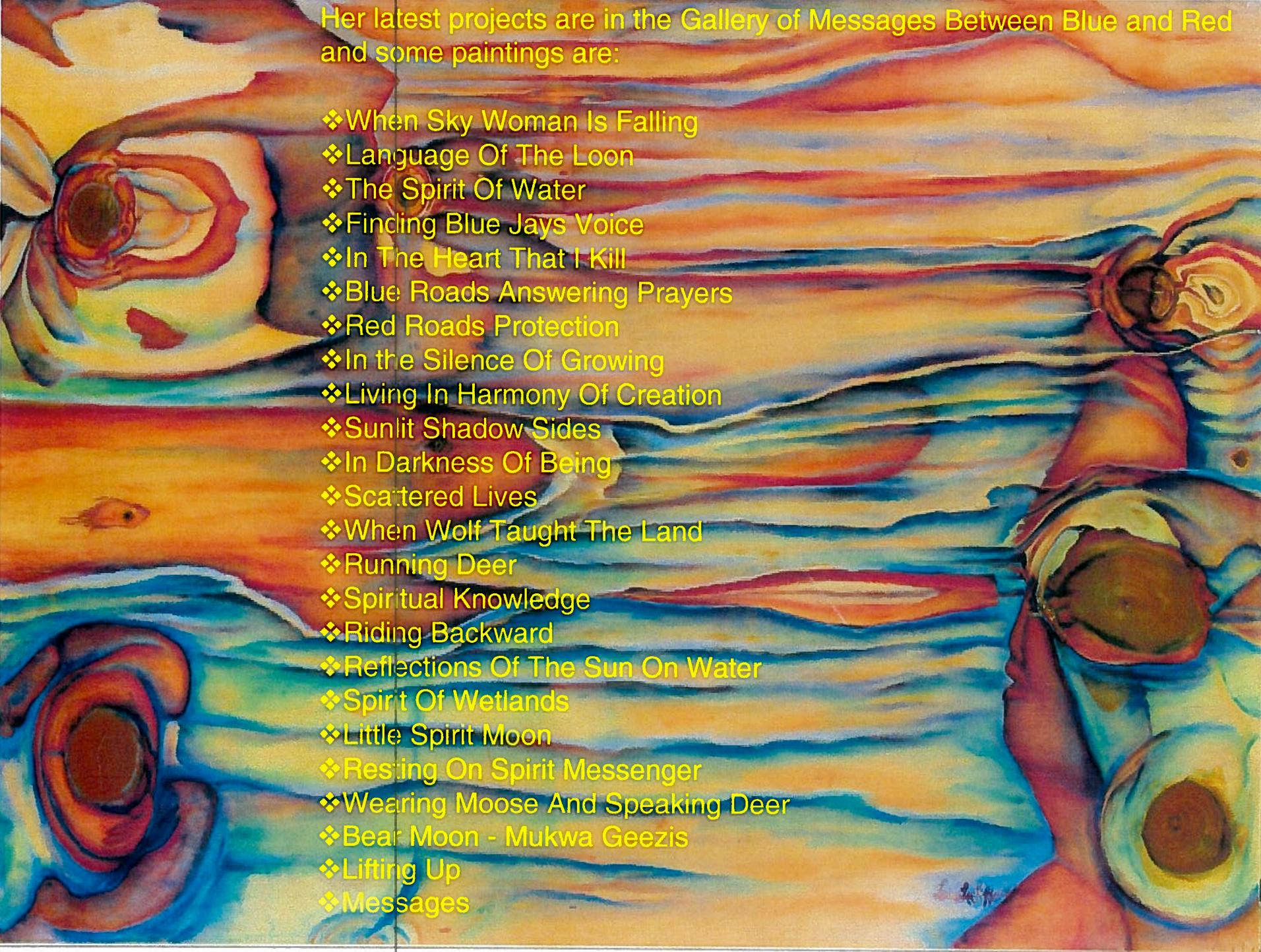
To start off, if I were to explain who Lauralee K. Harris was I would say that she is an inspirational artist that has changed the looks of Aboriginal and Native people through her style of artwork. The way I would describe her style of artwork is that she uses her creativity extensively, to organize and decide how and what is she going to paint. Also, her artwork comes from her mind, soul, and heart. Her artwork expresses what others can't and expresses the minds of her people. Her work is very inspirational and touching to the Native/Aboriginal people.

## 6. Virtual Gallery: Gallery of Spoken Trees 1997



My tour experience was amazing. I thought that all her artwork was beautiful and that the expression that she had in the paintings were very creative. On review said:

“Lauralee... you have such a beautiful connection to the Creator and Creation. I am reminded about how important it is to know you and to see your work. i bet when you walk through the bush... all the trees whistle at you "saying hey Ms Harris over here! pick me! pick me!"... the trees must be on their heels waiting for a chance to speak with you. thanks, harmony”.



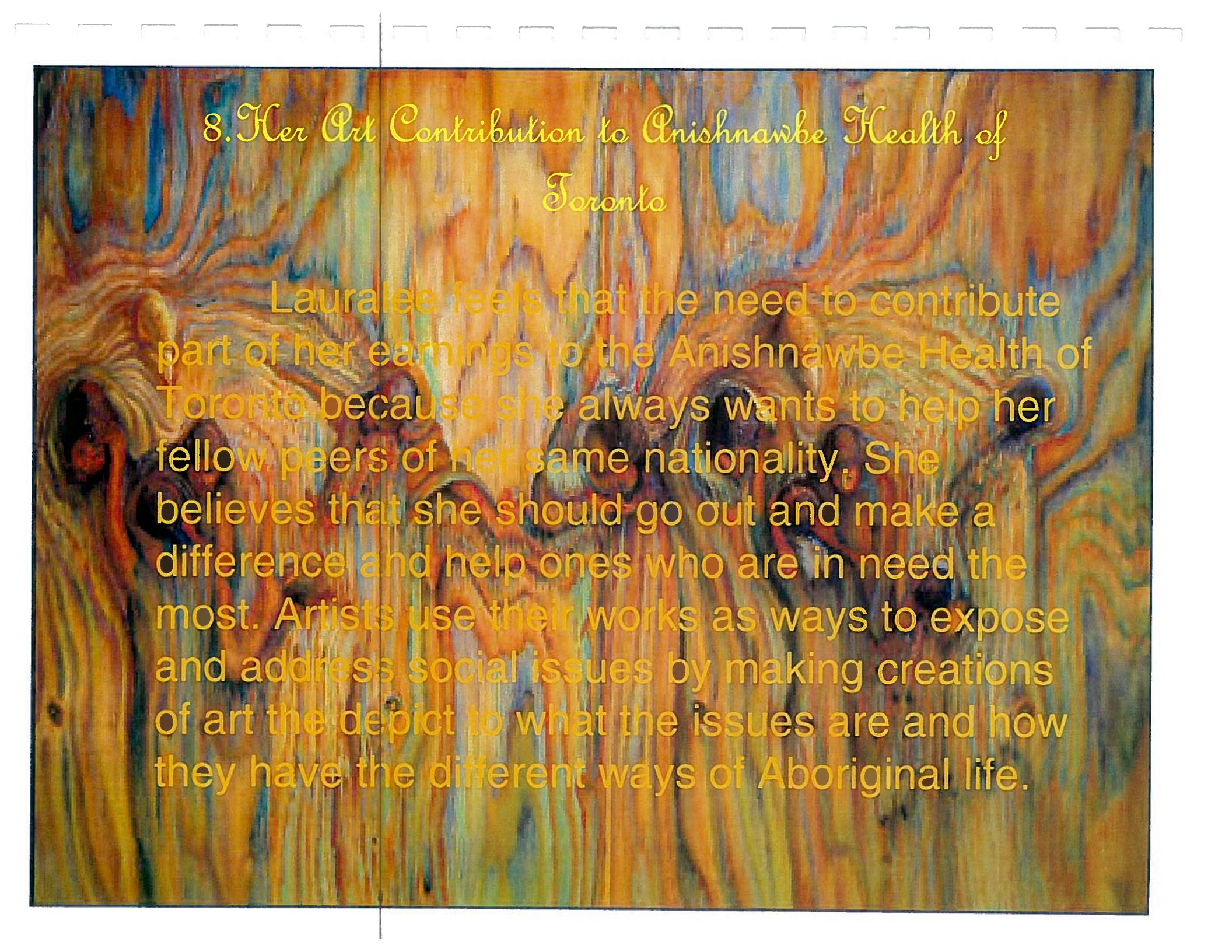
Her latest projects are in the **Gallery of Messages Between Blue and Red** and some paintings are:

- ❖ When Sky Woman Is Falling
- ❖ Language Of The Loon
- ❖ The Spirit Of Water
- ❖ Finding Blue Jays Voice
- ❖ In The Heart That I Kill
- ❖ Blue Roads Answering Prayers
- ❖ Red Roads Protection
- ❖ In the Silence Of Growing
- ❖ Living In Harmony Of Creation
- ❖ Sunlit Shadow Sides
- ❖ In Darkness Of Being
- ❖ Scattered Lives
- ❖ When Wolf Taught The Land
- ❖ Running Deer
- ❖ Spiritual Knowledge
- ❖ Riding Backward
- ❖ Reflections Of The Sun On Water
- ❖ Spirit Of Wetlands
- ❖ Little Spirit Moon
- ❖ Resting On Spirit Messenger
- ❖ Wearing Moose And Speaking Deer
- ❖ Bear Moon - Mukwa Geezis
- ❖ Lifting Up
- ❖ Messages

## **7. HER DIFFERENCE IN CANADIAN ART AND HOW IT PROVIDED TO ABORIGINAL ART AND EXPRESSION.**



The difference I believe she has made in Canadian art is that she showed to everyone that there isn't only two nationality's Canada originated from. She showed us that there is another type of nationality which is the Aboriginal/ Natives, which also live in Canada and live right beneath us. She proved many people wrong on the type of creativity and the type of art work they can provide to our country. She has been an advocate for aboriginal art and expression by providing her nationality and art work to Canada; by this she has greatly represented the heredity and nationality of the Aboriginal/Native people. Also she gave much support to the respect of who they are because once she has painted paintings and portraits of her background she gave many people a greater respect and others a greater view on the true identity of her people. Her paintings, give a great representation into who she really is and into where she comes from, even though it isn't much known around the country.



## 8. Her Art Contribution to Anishnawbe Health of Toronto

Lauralee feels that the need to contribute part of her earnings to the Anishnawbe Health of Toronto because she always wants to help her fellow peers of her same nationality. She believes that she should go out and make a difference and help ones who are in need the most. Artists use their works as ways to expose and address social issues by making creations of art that depict what the issues are and how they have the different ways of Aboriginal life.



Lauralee K. Harris is a great  
inspirational person.

Thank You

By: Paula Dajnarowicz