

THE ARTIST

.....

Nancy Desjarlais

Nancy Desjarlais was born a Plains Cree/Metis from the Anzac First Nations in northern Alberta. Her roots have been a deep force that wind throughout her life and work.

While growing up in Edmonton, Alberta with her three sisters, Nancy learned that creativity was a great solace and the door that would lead to her fulfillment as an artist.

She entered the University of Alberta in 1989 and obtained a bachelor's degree in painting and printmaking. In 1993, she won first and third prizes in the annual Peace Hills Trust Native Art competition.

In 1995, Nancy moved to Vancouver Island, knowing she was going to a land of accessible forests and abundant waters that her spirit craved. There, she developed her style and techniques in mixed media and, inspired by the ocean and the petroglyphs close by, she painted a series of work that included those themes.

Nancy continues to explore the unlimited realm of the artist and recent work includes paintings of people, mandalas, meditative figures, tricksters and mythical beings. Some of her work can be view online at <<http://nancydesjarlais.blogspot.com>>.

Nancy was chosen as winner of the 2009 Peace Hills Trust Native Art Competition with a painting called, *Spirit Horses Running Over Rough Terrain*. It was painted with simplicity and freedom in mind. This colourful, mixed media painting shows two running horses, "symbols of our spirit", and the medicine wheel with its four directions. "The rough terrain implies that we must strive for freedom in our spirits no matter how rough our path is."

Recently, Nancy returned to Edmonton to be closer to her family.