

# The Artist

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## Nancy Desjarlais

NATIVE ARTIST

Nancy Desjarlais is of Cree/Métis heritage from the Fort McMurray First Nation in northern Alberta. Her art is inspired by the spiritual, mythological and natural connections that run through the veins of her ancestry. She also draws upon the movement of the times, using her paintings as a calming ground reflecting peace and tranquillity.

While growing up in Edmonton, Alberta, Nancy learned that imagination and creativity not only gave her great comfort but also gave her joy. Making art at a young age opened the door that would lead to her fulfilment as an artist.

Nancy obtained her BFA in painting and printmaking from the University of Alberta. It was in university that she learned to use mixed media. In 1993, she entered paintings into the annual Peace Hills Trust Native Art competition, where she won first and third prizes.

In 1995, Nancy moved to Vancouver Island, where she developed her style and techniques in mixed media and, inspired by the ocean and the petroglyphs close by, she painted a series of works that included these themes.

In 2009, Nancy won first prize in the Peace Hills competition for her painting *Spirit Horses Running Over Rough Terrain*.

Nancy moved back to Edmonton to be close to her family. She works with the Edmonton Public School system and continues her painting practice.

Her work can be viewed at [nancydesjarlais.blogspot.com](http://nancydesjarlais.blogspot.com)