

# The Artist

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Kassia Ward

Born in Edmonton, Alberta, and growing up on the Enoch Cree Nation, Kassia was first introduced to art as a young child when an artist came to the community to give some classes. From there her artistic inspiration was broadened during junior high and high school art classes. During her time in university, Kassia took classes at Pro's Art in Edmonton, where she was introduced to oil painting and techniques of the old masters. Classes began by learning how to paint fruits, and flowers. Once students could handle such subject matter, they were invited to paint anything, from landscapes and animals to portraits.

After moving to Calgary, Kassia took abstract acrylic classes at the Calgary School of Arts, where students were encouraged to create and try new things by using anything from acrylic paint, gold foil, matte and gloss mediums to modelling paste. She took further classes at the Alberta College of Art and Design via continuing education courses. Such classes consisted of a drawing course titled "hands and feet", a mixed media course, and illustration.

Currently, Kassia lives in Vancouver, where she attends the Vancouver School of Media Arts and studies 3D character animation. 3D characters are brought to life by combining real life references, various principles of animation, and Maya software. Other classes being taken at VanArts include 3D modelling, Photoshop, Life Drawing, and Story/Visual Language.

Kassia's artistic inspiration comes from travelling, photos, nature, dreams, and the Aboriginal Culture. Some exhibits that Kassia has participated in are the Peace Hills Trust Aboriginal Art Contest and the juried ACAD "Spotlight" exhibition. The Aboriginal Art Contest displayed the piece "Chief Enoch". The ACAD exhibition is displaying the mixed media piece "Birch in Gold", which was selected by Katherine Ylitalo, an independent curator, art writer, and educator.