



## The Artist

The Tree of Life in Iroquois culture is a central theme of creation. It represents wisdom: in seeking wisdom of life, the Sky Woman of Iroquois culture examined the roots of the Tree and unlocked the door between the Spirit and this world. The Tree of Life also represents equality; in Aboriginal cultures, people and all of creation are equal parts.

Simon Brascoupé, Algonquin and Mohawk (1956– ) is a member of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg (formerly River Desert Band), Maniwake, Quebec. Simon is a published author of a number of books and articles, and his art is represented in the Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C., the Canadian Museum of Civilization, and many corporate collections.

Simon has sketched and painted from an early age. He learned many of the traditions and stories reflected in his art from his maternal grandmother. Using the traditional pochoir (stencil) method, which goes back thousands of years, bright colours and inks are applied through his paper stencils. This direct technique is capable of producing vivid colours and images, and allows the artist room to vary images slightly or dramatically from one print to another.