

east coast beauty

Michelle Sylliboy is a Mi'kmaq artist and educator, born in Boston, Mass, but raised in her traditional Mi'kmaq territory We'koqmaq First Nation, Cape Breton. Michelle has spent two decades on Coast Salish lands on the west coast, working as an artist, activist and educator.

She completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree at Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, and her Masters in Education at Simon Fraser University. She returned home to We'koqmaq First Nation, Cape Breton in the summer of 2010 to share her artistic practice, but was drawn back to the west coast, to enhance her artistic career and to further her education.



Michelle @ Gallery Gachet

As an educator and artist in residence, she has taught Indigenous art theory and sculpture, working with students from kindergarten to post secondary. As activist, she organized an international gathering of two-spirit indigenous people in Gold Bridge BC, and many other events, including the *Four Elements* fundraiser in Vancouver (2009).

I specialize in community artistic projects by bringing emerging artists together with professional artists. My last big project was with the West Coast Aboriginal Writers Collective in Vancouver B.C. We successfully self published and launched "Salish Seas" An anthology of emerging & professional poets and visual artists followed by a successful exhibition at Gastown's Gallery Gachet in Vancouver last February.

Specialties

Creating opportunities for dialogues to occur. By recognizing positive, creative changes in places and people. Not to mention sharing knowledge, such as this wonderful website <http://www.happynews.com/> or listening to Jazz and be inspired at a moments notice.

~Michelle Sylliboy, Mi'kmaq Educator/Poet/Visual Artist, on *Linked In*

Twists and mighty turns

Going back

through blood sweat and

mid career mood swings

was a huge decision

the way

characters resemble

an old black and white movie

on a bad day

triggers played host

to the best sellers list

of past and present

you can hardly

move back without baggage

teeter totter

metaphor's standing by

while white picket doors

built sideways

play mind games

from another world.

It's easy to

drive, drive, drive

without ever looking back
in someone else's window
someone else's beetle juice of sorrows for some reason temporarily
make you feel better

do we purposely
tempt old souls
to wander around
knocking on doors
for a cup of prayers

making peace with their own past through memories
through dreams
which connect
to our very own
spiritual growth and healing

peace is a mediating
transforming collective process
transform the collective
transform the world
as we connect to those who listen
by recognizing within yourself
the power we all have

by creating a world
that makes sense

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