



Artist Statement

Living in Sterling CT. most of my youth, my father would take us through the woods to explore and very often, we would find arrowheads and grinding stones. One very distinct pestle my father found he holds proudly on his fireplace mantel. Items like these and a curious nature lead me to investigate why so many artifacts would be in this particular part of CT. Sterling is just a stone throw from Oneco which I later learned to be named after the son of the great chief, Uncas, Mohegan Chief and Sachem. His son was named after his father Owaneco that later the town's people shortened to Oneco.

It was so fascinating to me that a great tribe of Native Americans once inhabited the very land I walked upon. I studied for two years reading everything I could get my hands on attending lectures and making frequent visits to the Pequot Museum. I found it very curious that such a tribe so close to our home was not taught about in our local schools. There is almost no formal education in the public school system, about local lands and their history. Therefore, I decided to educate myself, the best way I know how, to paint.

The inspiration to paint the Mohegan tribal leaders was out of respect for their contribution to the tribe in each painting they individually reflect something they attributed to the tribe. I painted these respected individuals because they deserve to be honored; the same way many colonists were portrayed for certain achievements in the past. These Native figures were not appreciated, as they should have been in their community because of an ignorant way of thinking.

I wanted to educate myself as well as anyone willing to learn. I felt so deeply about it I knew their must be a more spiritual meaning. And in fact, there was. My third generation grandmother was a originally from the Winnipeg tribe and through a genealogy search, after about two years into my series, I found her registered in Manitoba Canada as of 1850 in The Genealogy of the First Metis Nation.

I have never painted a series before. I have never had such a desire or drive in such a way. The passion to paint these sacred figures and folklore lead me into a world of native culture that was something I had never experienced before. I learned nature's way, and the respect for Mother Nature and all her creatures. I learned about discrimination in a way I never understood. I read about people whose hearts lead their path of life and there is nothing more inspiring than that.

These are my works.