

Nisohkamatotan Centre

Art Display Information

The Pipe: The smoke from the Pipe carries prayers to the Creator and honours both male and female. Fusing male stem and female bowl signifies union, creation and fertility. Tobacco represents relations and honours them, while symbolizing peace with others and inner conflicts.

Moccasins & Mittens: Both moccasins and mittens were made by Inuit Elder Peggy Richardson. The moccasins on the left are made out of hide and beaver fur. The mittens on the right are made out of sealskin and wolverine fur.

The Drum: The drum reminds us of our connection to Mother Earth. It is indicative of the circle of life and the rhythmic beating of the drum represents the heartbeat of Mother Earth.

Bear Claw: The bear claw symbolizes strength.

Métis Sash: The Métis Sash is a woven belt made of wool. Traditionally it was tied at the waist to hold a coat closed, including being used as a scarf or rope. The lives of the Métis have been woven together from a variety of cultures, traditions and beliefs. Métis are the descendants of the English, French, Irish, Scottish, Mi'kmaq, Cree, and Ojibway. The main colours of the Metis are red, blue, black, white, and yellow, all brought together to form a rich tapestry like the lives and

culture of the Métis. Today, the sash is still worn by Métis people. Métis women wear it over the shoulder, while others wear it in the traditional way, around the waist and tied down the middle, with the fringes hanging down. All of the Métis colours have special meaning, as follows:

- Red represents the historical colour of the Métis Sash
- Blue and White symbolize the Métis Nation flag
- Green signifies fertility, growth, and prosperity
- Black symbolizes the dark period

NAIT Moccasins: Presented by the Hon. Dr. Thelma Chalifoux and the Board of Directors of the Michif Cultural and Resource Institute. Moose hide moccasins designed by Dr. Chalifoux and created by Joyce Beaver for Dr. Sam Shaw, President & CEO in appreciation of ongoing support provided by NAIT.

Ookpiks: Ookpiks are an Inuit handicraft toy in the form of a small owl. Inuit Elder Peggy Richardson made these ookpiks out of sealskin.

Man Drumming- Artist Anthony Antoine: A long-time resident of Northern Canada, Anthony Antoine has been providing wonderful artwork to individuals and galleries across Canada since 1989. He was born in 1964 in Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories and has expressed his Dene culture through various carving mediums: stone, bone, antler, ivory, and horn.

When asked why he carves, Anthony explains that it is a form of therapy and relaxation, aside from being a financial venture; his main hobby is reading.

With roughly sixty hours per week spent using hand and power tools to make his artistic visions come to life, Anthony finds carving to be a very calming and satisfying means of expression.

Aside from the more typical carvings created by local artists, Anthony has also created various logo pieces for local outlets of Xerox, Shoppers Drug Mart and the North Slave Metis Alliance.

