

‘Spirit Circle’

Shannon Johnston

After a particularly challenging year with my job, the death of a close family member and my own health I was left with a new insight on life. I started creating art again after not doing anything for a year and I found that I felt more connected with the process of creation. I started to cherish stillness, nature, and things in life became more beautiful the more gratitude I had. The things that are so ordinary that can be truly extraordinary. Feathers represent something simple that we can walk by and not notice. If we are in a state of presence and appreciation we can appreciate the small things like the beauty of a single feather.

I loved the size of this 8 x 8 mural because it really challenged me when it came to proportions. I have never created a mural this size before. I first decoupled the antique paper down, which were from a treasured collection of ladies magazines from the early 1900's. I then added the giant gold swirl over top of the newsprint. This was like the eye of the painting, the center vortex and it's what really unified the painting once it was complete. Then I drew and cut all the feathers out and started painting them. I knew from the start that I wanted it to be full of bright color and for every feather to be unique and different from the next. And finally I glued them all down in a circle, tips all fanned out to make a circle to allude that alluded to a mandala. I really enjoyed the process of making "Spirit Circle". I feel like I achieved what I set out to accomplish by making it a powerful piece that draws interest.



Biography

Born in 1980, Shannon has had a lifelong interest in art. After graduating high school in 1998, she went onto study Studio Arts at Capilano University, where she graduated with a Studio Arts Diploma in 2002. Over the last 13 years Shannon has been a Teacher and Program Coordinator for the North Vancouver Arts Council, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna Museums and City of Kelowna. Shannon has had her work displayed at a variety of exhibitions over the last 14 years. After taking time to live overseas and further her art education She came back to Canada in 2008 to have a family. She is currently focused on teaching art classes and acrylic painting.