

About the Artist...

The Native Investment and Trade Association and the Assembly of First Nations are proud to have permission to use the beautiful painting of Suzanne Phillips for the logo for AFN-NEXUS 2002 and for the Annual General Assembly of the Assembly of First Nations. The painting titled "Partnership" signifies a traditional Mohawk marriage. It also symbolically represents the theme of the Business Conference and Trade Show "Joint Ventures and Partnerships". The use of the fantastic work of art is also meant to symbolize the cooperation and hard work that must go into improving the well-being of Aboriginal people economically, socially and politically across the nation. We would like to thank Suzanne for her tremendous generosity in permitting the use of her work for such a high-profile event.

SUZANNE M. PHILLIPS
Shatekenhatie (she walks alongside)
Mohawk / Wolf Clan / Kahnawake Mohawk Territory

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Kahnawake, QUE JOL 1B0
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Painting

For Suzanne, painting is a place in which to pour out emotion. Her paintings are reflection of her mind and soul. As such, the content of her work focuses on the spiritual and mystical aspects of existence. Her colour palette shifts with the seasons. She tends to use darker colours in winter and brighter colours in the summer. This is an intuitive shift based on her response to the different kinds of light the changing seasons bring. Suzanne works in acrylics and watercolour, as well as pen and ink, and pencil. Her pictures are often surreal-looking landscapes peopled by silhouettes, eagles, and waving trees. She often includes a very crooked tree in her paintings, as a kind of signature, expressing imperfection. Suzanne prefers working on 2-3 paintings at any given time, and like to often change her style.

Iroquois Arts Project

Suzanne has been painting off and on for over twenty years, and is largely self-taught. But growing up in Kahnawake, she became familiar with painting at an early age. Her mother, Marjorie Deer Phillips, was a good painter. Marjorie painted mostly animals, portraits, and religious themes. Suzanne feels her mother had a significant influence on her. Her grandmother, Mary Robertson Deer, also was a great inspiration. Mary was always doing beadwork. As she grew up, Suzanne was also impacted by the works of Rita Phillips, as well as Dorothy and Pauline Lahache.

After she finished high school, Suzanne started marketing her pictures to Andrew Delisle and Steve McComber, but was interrupted over the years by motherhood and work. More recently, she is able to work full-time on commercial contracts. Soon after the crisis of 1990, she sought and received a grant to assist in starting her own studio. She has made illustrations for the booklets used at the Mohawk Immersion School, for the AIDS center in Montreal, and for the Diabetes Prevention Program on the reserve. Suzanne also considerable commercial work in the form of sign billboard painting for local businesses and events. But it is her own paintings that she most enjoys creating. She lets her work speak for itself, and does not like to title her creations.

In addition to the contact information above, Suzanne's works may be viewed at AFN-NEXUS 2002 trade show.