

## LYNDON TOOTOOSIS

I've been a working artist for 27 yrs. My journey started long before I created my first piece.

As a child I was taught traditional ways of making Cree ceremonial pipes. My late father was a traditional person, partaking in Our ceremonies. As I grew I was brought in to the circle, learning the teachings that have sustained my People.



These life lessons have been a part of what I do. For 11yrs I worked with the Allen Sapp gallery as the cultural lead in the development of shows and programs. My job included getting Elders to come and share their memories, which were used to tell the story of reservation life as they grew up. These elders encouraged me to share what I had learned. They emphasized that it is through sharing that understanding is fostered.

By using traditional games, I started to share our beliefs in respect, cooperation and survival. These were delivered to guests and students who came through the gallery for programs.

In 1993 I started creating Art. I had returned to high school. During the art class I was introduced to soapstone. I have combined the stories of my People with stone. What I share I have permission from my Elders. I do the proper protocol as I have been taught. My work is held in private and corporate collections.