ᐊᑕᐅᓯᐅᖃᑎᖃᖅᓂᖅ ᑕᕆᐅᒥᒃ
One With the Ocean

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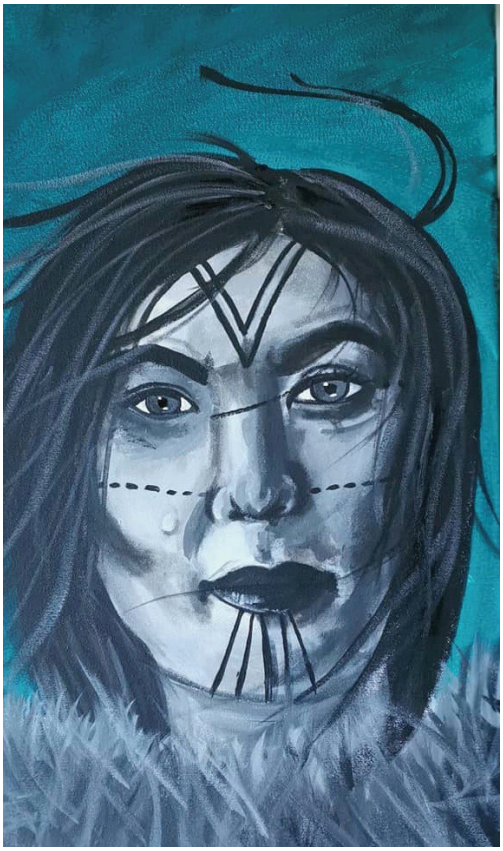

ᐊᑕᐅᓯᐅᖃᑎᖃᖅᓂᖅ ᑕᕆᐅᒥᒃ

ᓄᓕᐊᔪᒃ, ᐅᕝᕙᓘᓐᓃᑦ ᑕᐃᔭᐅᕙᒻᒥᔪᖅ ᓯᐊᑦᓇ, ᐊᒥᓱᓚᑦᓚᓐᓂᑦ ᐅᓂᒃᑳᖅᑐᐊᖑᕙᑦᑐᓂᑦ ᐅᓂᒃᑳᖅᑐᐊᖑᓯᒪᒻᒥᔪᖅ ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᐱᐅᓯᑐᖃᖏᓐᓂᑦ ᐅᓂᒃᑳᕆᔭᐅᕙᒃᑑᑦᓗᓂ. ᓄᓕᐊᔪᒃ, ᑕᕆᐅᑉ ᐃᒪᖓᓂᖅᒥᐅᑕᐅᕗᖅ, ᐊᖅᓇᐅᑦᓗᓂ ᐃᓅᓚᐅᖅᓯᒪᔪᕕᓂᖅ ᐃᒫᓄᑦ ᐃᒋᑕᐅᓚᐅᖅᓯᒪᔪᕕᓂᐅᑦᓗᓂ ᑕᐅᓄᖓ ᑕᕆᐅᒧᑦ ᐅᐃᑖᕈᒪᙱᓐᓂᖓᓄᑦ. ᐊᑐᖅᓂᖃᖅᑎᑕᐅᕗᖅ ᐃᒪᓐᓇ ᑕᕆᐅᒥᑦ ᐆᒪᔪᖅᑯᑎᒋᔭᑦᑎᓐᓂᑦ ᓴᖅᑭᔾᒋᔭᐅᓂᖓᓄᑦ ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᐅᒪᓂᖅᖃᕕᐅᓂᖓᓄᑦ. ᓄᓕᐊᔪᒃ ᓯᕗᓕᖅᑎᒋᔭᐅᑦᓗᓂ ᐊᑦᑕᑕᖅᓯᒪᔾᔪᑎᒋᒐᑦᑎᒍ ᑕᕆᐅᑉ ᐃᒪᖏᓄᑦ.

ᑕᐅᑦᑐᕆᔭᖕᒐ ᐊᒥᐊᒐᓕᐅᓚᐅᖅᓯᒪᔭᕋ ᐃᓱᒪᒋᓪᓗᒍ ᑐᓴᐅᒪᔪᒥᓇᖅᑑᓂᖕᒐᓄᑦ ᐱᔾᔪᑎᒋᓪᓗᒍ ᐃᓄᒃᑎᒍᑦ ᐊᑕᐟᕕᖃᕐᓂᑦᑎᓐᓄᑦ ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᐅᐱᒍᓱᑦᑎᐊᕐᓂᖃᕐᓂᑦᑎᓐᓄᑦ ᐃᒪᕐᑯᑎᒋᔭᑦᑎᓐᓂᒃ, ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᐆᒪᔪᕐᑯᑎᐅᔪᓄᑦ ᑕᕆᐅᒥᐅᑕᐅᔪᓄᑦ, ᐃᓱᒪᒋᓪᓗᒋᑦ. ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᑐᙵᕝᕕᖃᓪᓚᕆᒻᒪᑕ ᑕᕆᐅᒧᑦ ᐊᖑᓇᓱᐊᕐᕕᒋᕙᒃᑲᒥᐅᒃ ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᐃᖏᕋᕕᒋᕙᒃᓱᒍ ᐊᐅᔭᐅᒐᓗᐊᖅᐸᑦ ᐅᑭᐅᖑᒐᓗᐊᖅᐸᓪᓘᓐᓃᑦ.

ᓱᓕᕆᐊᒃᓴᖃᓗᐊᕈᓐᓃᕋᖕᒐᒪ ᐅᑭᐅᓄᑦ ᐊᒥᓱᓄᑦ ᐊᒥᐊᒐᓕᐅᖅᐸᒃᓯᒪᓂᓐᓂᑦ, ᐊᕐᓇᐃᑦ ᑕᐅᑦᑐᙵᐊᖏᓂᒃ ᐊᒥᐊᒐᓕᐅᖃᑦᑕᖅᓯᒪᒐᒪ ᐊᒥᐊᒐᖏᑦ ᑎᑎᕐᓂᖃᖅᐸᒃᑐᓂᒃ ᐱᐅᓯᑐᖃᑎᒃ ᒪᓕᒃᓱᒍ ᓲᕐᓗ ᑕᕝᕙᓂ ᑕᑯᒃᓴᐅᒻᒪᑕ. ᐃᓂᕐᑯᓇᖅᑑᓂᖕᒐᓂᒃ ᐅᕙᖕᒐ ᑕᐅᑐᙵᐊᖅᑕᒃᑯᑦ ᑕᑯᒃᓴᐅᑎᑦᑎᓯᒪᓕᕈᒪᓚᐅᕋᒪ ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᐃᓅᓪᓗᓂ ᑕᐅᑦᑐᖃᖅᑎᑦᓱᒪᓪᓗᒍ ᕿᒥᕐᕈᔪᐃᑦ ᑐᑭᓯᐅᒪᓕᖅᑎᑕᐅᕐᑯᓪᓗᒋᑦ ᐃᓚᖕᒐᒍᑦ ᖃᓄᖅ ᑕᐅᑦᑐᖃᓚᐅᖅᓯᒪᓂᕕᓂᖕᒐᓄᑦ. ᑎᑎᕋᐅᔭᒐᓕᐊᕆᕙᒃᑕᒃᑯᑦ, ᓂᕈᐊᖅᓯᒪᒐᒪ ᑕᑯᒃᓴᐅᑎᑦᓯᓯᒪᔪᒪᓪᓗᖕᒐ ᐱᐅᓪᓚᕆᒃᑑᖕᒐᑕ ᐃᓄᒃᑎᒍᑦ ᐱᐅᓯᑐᖃᕆᔭᖕᒐᓄᑦ, ᐱᔾᔪᑎᒋᓪᓗᒍ ᖁᕕᐊᒋᓪᓚᕆᒃᐸᒃᑲᑯ ᐊᓯᓐᓂᒃ ᐃᓕᓐᓂᐊᖅᑎᑦᑎᓯᒪᓕᕆᐊᒥᒃ ᐃᓅᓪᓗᑕ ᐱᐅᓯᑐᖃᕆᔭᑦᑎᓐᓂᒃ ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᐊᑐᖅᓯᒪᔭᑦᑎᓐᓂᒃ; ᓴᓇᐅᒐᓕᐅᖅᐸᓐᓂᖅ ᑐᑭᓯᐅᒪᓕᕈᑎᒃᓴᑦᓯᐊᖑᕙᒪᑦ ᐅᓂᒃᑳᖅᑐᐊᓕᐅᕐᓗᓂ.

ᐱᕈᖅᓴᓚᐅᖅᓯᒪᕗᖕᒐ ᐊᑖᑕᒐᓗ ᒪᑦᑎᑕᐅᑎᓂᒃ ᐊᑐᖅᓱᑕ ᐃᖃᓪᓕᕐᕿᕙᒃᑎᓪᓗᑕ ᐃᒡᓗᕋᓛᑦᑎᓐᓂ ᖃᓂᑕᕆᔭᖕᒐᓃᑦᑐᒥ ᓯᒡᔭᐅᑉ (ᕼᐅᑦᓴᓐ ᐸᐃ ᑕᕆᐅᖕᒐᓂ) ᐊᐅᔭᑖᒪᑦ. ᐱᐅᓪᓚᕆᒃᑑᑎᐅᓪᓗᑎᒃ ᑕᑯᓐᓇᖅᐸᓚᐅᖅᓯᒪᔪᒍᑦ ᓇᑦᑎᕐᓂᒃ ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᕿᓚᓗᒐᕐᓂᒃ ᐃᒡᓗᕋᓛᑦᑎᓐᓂᑦ ᓯᒡᔭᖕᒐᓂᑦ ᑕᑯᕋᓐᓂᓪᓚᕆᒃᑑᑎᒋᕙᒃᑕᓐᓂᒃ ᐱᔾᔪᑎᒋᓪᓗᒍ ᓂᕆᕕᑦᑕ ᓵᖕᒐᓃᑎᓪᓗᒋᑦ ᑭᓯᐊᓂ ᐅᕝᕙᓘᓐᓃᑦ ᒪᖕᒋᑉᑕᓄᐊᖅᑕᐅᓯᒪᑎᓪᓗᒋᑦ ᓂᕆᕕᒡᔪᐊᖅᑎᑦᑎᓪᓗᒋᑦ ᑕᑯᖃᑦᑕᖅᓯᒪᒐᒃᑭᑦ. ᐱᑖᖅᓯᒪᓕᕈᑎᒋᓚᐅᖅᓯᒪᒐᒃᑭᑦ ᖁᔭᓕᓂᖃᖅᓂᖅᒥᒃ ᐊᖑᓇᓱᐊᖅᑎᒋᕙᒃᑕᑦᑎᓐᓄᑦ ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᐊᑕᕝᕕᖃᓪᓚᕆᒃᑑᓂᑦᑎᓐᓄᑦ ᐃᓅᓪᓗᑕ ᑕᕆᐅᒧᑦ ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᐆᒪᔪᕐᑯᑎᐅᔪᓄᑦ.

ᑖᓐᓇ ᐱᓕᕆᐊᕆᑲᐅᓐᓇᖅᓱᒍ ᐃᖅᑲᐅᒪᔪᓐᓇᖅᓯᓚᐅᕋᒪ ᐊᑐᖅᓯᒪᔭᑦᑎᓐᓂᒃ ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᐱᐅᓯᑐᖃᕆᔭᑦᑎᓐᓂ ᐱᓕᕆᓂᖃᖅᐸᒃᓯᑕ ᑕᕆᐅᒥ ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᑕᕆᐅᑉ ᓯᑯᐊᓂ. ᐊᒻᒪᓗᑦᑕᐅᖅ ᐊᒥᓱᑲᓪᓚᐅᔪᓂᒃ ᐃᖅᑲᐃᔪᓐᓇᖅᓯᓚᐅᕐᒥᔪᖕᒐ ᑐᕋᖕᒐᔪᓂᒃ ᓄᓇᒋᔭᓐᓄᑦ ᐅᕝᕙᓘᓐᓃᑦ ᐅᒥᐊᕐᔪᐊᒃᑯᑦ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᕆᐊᖃᑕᐅᓯᒪᑎᓪᓗᖑ ᐃᓕᓐᓂᐊᖅᑐᐃᑦ ᓯᑯᒦᖃᑎᒌᒃᑎᑕᐅᕙᓐᓂᖕᒋᓐᓂ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᔭᕐᕕᐊᓂ ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᔾᔭᖃᖃᑕᐅᑎᓪᓗᖕᒐ ᐅᑭᐅᓐᓄᑦ ᒪᕐᕉᓐᓄᑦ. ᐃᓱᒪᒐᓗᐊᖅᑐᖕᒐ ᓯᕗᓂᕐᒥ ᑭᖑᕙᕆᓂᐊᖅᑕᕗᑦ ᐃᓄᐃᑦ ᐊᑐᖅᓯᒪᔭᓐᓂᒃ ᐊᔾᔨᕐᓚᖕᒐᒍᑦ ᐊᑐᕈᒫᕈᓐᓇᕐᓂᐊᕐᑯᓪᓗᒋᑦᑕᐅᖅ ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᖁᕕᐊᓱᒍᑎᖃᕈᓐᓇᕐᓗᑎᒃ ᐃᓅᓪᓗᑕ ᐊᑐᖅᓯᒪᔭᑦᑎᓐᓂᒃ, ᐱᐅᓯᑐᖃᕆᔭᑦᑎᓐᓂᒃ, ᐊᑦᑕᑕᖅᓯᒪᓂᑦᑎᓐᓄᑦ ᑕᕆᐅᒧᑦ, ᐊᒻᒪᓗ ᓂᕿᒋᔭᒃᓴᑦᑎᓐᓂᒃ ᐱᑕᖃᖅᑎᑦᓯᕙᓐᓂᖕᒐᓄᑦ.

One With the Ocean

Nuliajuk, or Sedna, is one of many legends from our Inuit culture. Nuliajuk, our sea goddess, was an Inuk woman who was thrown into the sea after she refused to marry. She is the key to how our sea mammals came to form and live. She is at the forefront of our connection with the salt waters. I had painted her portrait with the inspiration of the connection and respect we have for our waters, and the mammals that live in it, in mind. Inuit depend on the ocean to hunt and travel whether it be summer or winter.

Over the years of painting in my spare time, I have naturally gravitated towards portraits of women with traditional Inuit tattoos, as seen in this portrait. I wanted to show her beauty through my eyes and humanize her to give the audience some perspective on what she would have looked like. With my art, I choose to show the beauty of our culture, as I am passionate about educating others about my Inuit traditions and history; art is a good way for storytelling.

I grew up fishing with my dad with his gill nets by our cabin near the shore (Hudson's Bay) every summer. There were some amazing opportunities to see seals and beluga whales from our cabin down at the shore, which was pretty cool as I had only seen them on the dinner table or on the cardboard tables at feasts. It gave me a newfound appreciation for our hunters and our connection to the sea and its mammals.

This project allowed me to reflect on our history and traditions around the ocean and sea ice. It also brought back many memories, whether it was being back at home or out on expeditions with Students on Ice where I worked from 2018 to 2020. I hope that future generations of Inuit are able to have similar experiences and appreciate our history, culture, connection to the ocean, and the food it has to offer.