

Artist, A. J. VanDrie



An Emerging, Young Talent in the "Woodland Artist" School, draws from the Energy of Nature

A.J. VanDrie, drawing inspiration from the energy of nature, a first nations cultural heritage and his own life experiences, creates brilliant acrylic paintings of landscapes and animals in a style broadly known as "Woodland Art".

Born in Kingston, Ontario, A.J.'s biological father belonged to Saugeen First Nation and his Mother was Irish Canadian. Adopted at a young age, A.J. was raised by his current and dependent family in the Northumberland Hills, east of Toronto, where he received support and encouragement to explore his heritage and express his creative nature.

After graduating from the Haliburton School of the Arts with a Drawing and Painting Certificate, A.J. opened his studio in Codrington, Ontario. His artworks have been displayed in the Art Gallery of Northumberland's 5th and 9th Annual Student Art Exhibitions, as well as, Haliburton School of the Arts Annual Student Art Show and Sale, and at a number of private/public exhibitions throughout the region.

A.J.'s recent awards include "The Drawing and Painting Award" by Haliburton School of the Arts for best student average, and an "Eagle Feather", the highest honor awarded of the Anishnabae community by Elders of Mississauga First Nation in Blind River.

A.J. believes in giving back to the community and has donated to different charities such as Green Haven Shelter for Women and the Fleming College Foundation.

The recognizable Flower in the bottom right corner of A.J.'s paintings, symbolizes his Anishnabae name "Wild Flower".

