



JUDY CHARTRAND

b. 1959, Kamloops, BC, CAN
lives and works in Vancouver, CAN

Judy Chartrand is a Manitoba Cree artist, born in Kamloops, BC and was raised in a marginalized neighbourhood located in Vancouver's skid row area back in the early 1960s. She is an artist whose work frequently confronts issues of postcolonialism, socio-economic inequity and Indigenous knowledge expressed through the mediums of ceramics, found objects, archival photos and traditional techniques that include beading, tufting and porcupine quilling on hide.

ABOUT HER WORK

Much of my work confronts issues of colonization, assimilation and identity politics. I began my journey looking directly at my family's history beginning with my Mom sharing her Residential School experiences at the Pine Creek Indian Residential school from 1926 to 1938 as well as her life after her release and her marriage to a batterer and subsequent common-law relationships that all culminated in her having to make moves so that she could survive in an atmosphere that was racially geared against her.

I wondered why her/my story was the same as so many other First Nations families so I began to look outward. This led me to look at racism via the KKK, Neo-nazi, Skin-head, White Nationalists groups. I still wasn't finding answers because our experiences have not been with these groups, but with your every-day white folk. This led me to looking at the concept of whiteness, white racism, white privilege and white power. I learned that our poverty, dysfunction and displacement had nothing to do with us being less than, but more about us being bamboozled and criminalized so that it was a substantial guarantee that we suffered greatly in all ways imaginable.



"...is a zero", 2022