

Charlene Vickers
Where We Gather

Opening Reception: September 12th, 2-5pm

On the Subject of Beauty

Beauty is a beacon of presence.

Speaking from my personal experience as a painter and visual artist- it indicates an indigenous presence.

There is illumination in beauty and beauty within illumination. Within my painting there is beauty within my gesture, it comes from my body and my body's history as Anishinabe Kwe/ Ojibway woman.

Sometimes I think the art world can view beauty as a benign thing. But I know beauty is a political act. Colour is a sense of urgency. When I use colour, there is strength in its vividness and saturation.

When form, subjects and colour come together to work and bring forth harmony and discord- Colour Acts.
Colour and beauty come together as action.

Within these actions I assert presence- Indigenous presence. It is in beauty and colour I express a visual healing and a statement of futurity.

I am employing a method of "making sparks" to spark memory where colour has heat to illuminate an imagined place, space, time and history. Memory and feeling become an experience where the visual surface of the painting and the space of feeling between it and the viewer can be called beauty unto itself. But what beauty is for me personally is...

-it is a "survival"

-an elation

-a vibration

it is my continued movement forward in the place of joy. in this active space –within beauty- I create as a political action and statement of my existence.