

SHARON ELSA PERRY

1957-2012



The art on display here was made by my late mother, **Sharon Elsa Perry**. It is a variety of visual art that is made of dried leaves, flowers, moss, etc, which she gathered while walking through the woods or along walking trails near her home. She taught herself to dry and press these materials into detailed pieces of art which she either framed or arranged in fish bowls. She had a great love for the beauty of nature and enjoyed walking, picking berries and fiddleheads, fishing and taking in the sights and sounds around her.

Sharon was an artist and worker that experienced various forms of inequality, spent her entire life living under the poverty line, and cared deeply about social and environmental justice. She was one of nine children in her family and grew up in rural New Brunswick in very poor conditions, often going without basic necessities such as proper food, clothing and shelter. As a child/teen she was in and out of foster care and she struggled with her education, eventually dropping out of school, even though she was a very wise and intelligent person. She was also a survivor of family and domestic violence, and a strong supporter of women's rights and freedoms.

Though she faced many challenges and difficulties throughout her life, she maintained a great sense of humor, was very caring, thoughtful and compassionate, and would often go out of her way to help others whenever she could. Along with being a single mother of two, she also spent over a decade working at the Fredericton Anti-Poverty Organization. I know that it meant a lot to her to be able to help others through her work and in her personal life who were struggling in poverty and/or experiencing similar difficulties as she had.

The majority of her art was created in the final few years of her life, starting roughly in 2009 up until her passing at the end of 2012. The only other time that some of her art work was presented publicly was at a gathering held in celebration of her life, at the Kinsmen Community Centre in Devon, on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012.