

Urban artist teaches on Culture Days

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This weekend, Prince Albert residents celebrated art and culture through Culture Days.

Sunday afternoon, local artist Terri-Lynn McDonald held an urban stencil art workshop at the Mann Art Gallery as part of those celebrations.

Throughout the afternoon, students created their own stenciled art while learning about urban street art.

"Stenciling, for me, is exploring the negative space in between things," said McDonald.

"We are trying to teach that concept today or, at least, have fun coloring and painting. In the end, it (everyone's work) is going to be on a collaborative graffiti-style piece."

Urban art is a style of art that relates to cities and city life often done by artists who live in or have a passion for city life.

In that way, urban art combines street art and graffiti and is often used to summarize all visual art forms arising in urban areas, being inspired by urban architecture or the urban lifestyle.

McDonald, who is also a member of IPAC (Indigenous People's Artist Collective), focuses on the ideas of urban aboriginal art.

"So a lot of that is things like graffiti," said McDonald. "It's also stuff that is fantastical and happy and explorative but, at the same time, touching on everyday realities."

Sunday afternoon, most of McDonald's students were dipping their toes into the urban art style for the first time.

One of those students was Lana Patterson, who came all the way from Cumberland House to take her first lesson.

"I have a meeting tomorrow and saw this advertised so I decided to come to Prince Albert early and see what it would be like," said Patterson.

But Patterson didn't attend Sunday's class just for herself. She also had her students in mind.

"I helped with some of the art programs that were brought up to Cumberland House in the past from Prince Albert," said Patterson. "Where I live, there are a lot of young people that seem to have a lot of talent

in the arts and yet it's not being developed or fully realized because the lack of resources or teachers or whatever.

"That has an effect on young people, in particular, teenagers."

"Sometimes it is like they are lost and they need something to help anchor them to who they are or who their people are, their culture that they are a part of," Patterson added.

"That is part of the reason I am here, because I thought if I could come and learn, I could take it back and teach it in the art class that I do in Cumberland House."

Culture Days was conceived in response to the growing recognition that a vibrant arts and cultural sector contributes directly to a healthy and stable society. The voluntary Culture Days movement represents the largest-ever collective public participation campaign undertaken by the arts and cultural community in Canada.

This year, Saskatchewan communities celebrated Culture Days from Sept. 26 to Oct. 2.





Sunday afternoon, local artist Terri-Lynn McDonald held an urban stencil art workshop at the Mann Art Gallery to help celebrate Culture Days. Throughout the afternoon, students created their own stenciled art while learning about urban street art. Herald photo by Sarah Rolles