

CiCi Bear

Mama Bear Creations

I am a queer, neurodivergent, self taught, indigenous artist. Born in Southern Ontario in 1988, with no formal arts education background, I embrace fully my endless curiosity and passion for lifelong learning.

My art has always been biographical. I use it as a method of decoding my mind, breaking through trauma, expressing my internal emotional world, critically exploring decolonization, social, political and cultural issues and uncovering the beauty in the struggles of my existence. And sometimes... I create simply for the sheer pleasure of bringing into the world a thing born from my brain. While I am multifaceted and work in a large variety of mediums, recycled materials and processes, in each project my methodology stays the same. During research and production new areas of interest arise and often lead to the next body of work.



Ana Lorena (a staff member of Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House) showcasing Ci Ci's artwork, "Solace", at CAPC Parent Conference.

Solace

Mixed media

This was imagined, created and finalized in the last 4 days.

An idea born in early April 2022, to carve from a mirror, and use the negative space to speak, slowly took form until it suddenly burst forward. The imagery used came from the feeling that has haunted me in these chaotic days, the sensation of drowning and how it feels to both be overwhelmed by the troubled world and existence as a whole right now, and finding peace in the smallest of ways. The juxtaposition of living my small everyday life, while the world breaks around me. Being lost, unanchored, without a sense of helpful purpose in the larger scale, but finding solace in the natural rhythm of life and parenting. Under this layer is a commentary of climate change, domestic violence, struggle and repressed emotion.

The mirror was found in an alley. I used wood carving chisels and sandpaper, resin and alcohol inks, acrylic paint on recycled poster board and nail varnish.