

In the Exhibition, I showed two separate projects. Much of my work includes and utilizes articles and writings about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-spirit, and more (MMIW2S+). The articles I found include a case of Cody Legebokoff, a young man who murdered three indigenous sex workers and a teenage girl, and an article about active voice in the media.

This research about the topic I addressed in my work helped me establish a conclusion on what I wanted people to feel when they viewed my work. Cody Legebokoff murdered Loren Leslie, who was around the same age as I was, in 2010. When my friends and I learned about the murders, it sent a chill up our spine as we considered how well-rounded and regular Cody Legebokoff seemed to the rest of his family, peers, and community. The disappearances leading up to the discovery of Cody were discussed in passive voice by most sources of media, which made the victims sound like passive objects that were left on their own.

I didn't know how to address or identify passive voice until I found an article by de Bourbon, Soma, Ketzal Gomez, and Beatriz San Juan from 2022. It was called "Is Active Voice Enough? Community Discussions on Passive Voice, MMIWG2S, and Violence against Urban Indigenous Women in San José, California". They identified passive and active voice in a way that I could relate to, and although they lived farther away, indigenous people there had the same experiences as where I am from. It made me feel more connected to the incident and the problems that bothered me about the portrayal of these women.

I also did the research for my sculptural paintings and found a reference for my subject matter on pedophilia. When I was a kid, there was a book that I used to read called “The Rainbow Fish” by Mark Pfister that didn’t make any sense to me as I got older. The book is about a fish with beautiful scales who is told to take them off to make friends despite saying no previously. Although it did not make much sense to me as a child, I still thought it was a good book. As an adult, however, there are a few messages that I would not encourage for children, as it deals with consent and relationships with others around you. In the book, the rest of the fish in the sea alienated and ignored the rainbow fish because he wouldn’t give up his scales. Knowing that scales can be connected to nerves in fish, I thought he was putting up boundaries and exercising his right to say no to something that would hurt his body. Near the end of the book, I thought the octopus’s advice to the rainbow fish was ominous and strange.

Bibliography

Macqueen, Ken, and Patricia Treble. "Most Dangerous Cities." *Maclean's* 124, no. 51/52 (January 9, 2012): 18–22. <https://search-ebscohost-com.ezproxy.tru.ca/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=69921673&site=eds-live&scope=site>.

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