

FINALISTS OF THE 2025 MICHIF YOUTH ART CONTEST

MAK BODIE



Growing up, I never had a solid understanding of who I am; being Metis, being between two worlds. I do understand, however, my deep running connection with my family and how important those people are to me.

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This piece is an homage to my Papa (grandpa), and how much he means to me. My grandma and papa practically raised me and I will never thank them enough for the amount of love they surround me with. I admire the amount of time my papa spends outside in the quiet, his never-wavering dedication to his camping spot down in the Waitabit. He sent me a picture of a grizzly bear, recklessly up-close, through the window of his truck about a year ago, and I fell in love with the picture, waiting for the perfect time to capture it in my art. I decided this is the right time. My papa is more dedicated to our wilderness than anyone I know, therefore this is for him. The bear also represents him, strong and a protector of his family.

I painted the background valley outside in the sun, looking at the mountains and forests I grew up in all around me. I was mesmerized by how the sun reflected all the different shades of green. I felt homesick while painting, and this piece is more personal than I ever meant it to be. I referenced the mountains outside my high school, not even thinking about how soon I will be leaving this landscape to pursue new and greater things. My graduation is rapidly approaching, my time at high school soon-to-be behind me, and suddenly, it becomes full circle. Neither of my grandparents graduated high school. My papa got his GED when he was sixty, a point in his life where his working days were long-behind him, but he got his diploma anyway. My papa is one of the smartest people I know, I always looked up to him for that reason. Graduating puts things into a perspective that only makes me appreciate him more. How his experiences have shaped the intelligent and caring man I know today. Thank you Papa, for everything.