

Key Facts

Name: George Littlechild

Born in: Edmonton, Alberta

Reside: British Columbia

Age: 64

Educational background: Diploma in art and design from Red Deer, BAFA from Nova Scotia college of Art and Design

Core theme: Indigenous issues and awareness

materials used: Oil Paint, Mixed media

All images from Georgelittlechild.com



Warrior, Education, Graduate

Mixed media, 30x22

2017



Bling Bling Chief

Mixed Media, 48 x 38

2012



Floral Garden Spirit
Mixed media, 30x22
2021



Rainbow Man, Warrior
22x15
2012



Big Jesus and His Indian

•How do the formal aspects contribute to or affect how you understand the work (size, colour, materials, texture, brushwork, value, composition, genre, style, etc)?

The large swatches of bright colors lead the eyes around the piece in a smooth and natural way, while also displaying the artist's playful style. Despite this fun and whimsical way of painting the subject matter is less so. The indigenous man on the right is visibly upset or angry, while Jesus at the left is indifferent. The asymmetrical balance

•What is the context for this work (when this work was produced, what is going on politically, in the art world, in their personal life)?

This work was produced recently and is likely speaking of indigenous issues as most of Littlechild's work does. Examining the work, it is obvious it has themes of Christianity and its role in the abuse of indigenous peoples in the past.

•What emotions does the work elicit? How does the artist do that?

This work elicits a slightly perplexing and possibly upsetting feeling. The work achieves this through the use of almost abstract shapes used to create human faces as well as the use of contrasting concepts. The fun and whimsical style of bright colors and round shapes works with and against the dark theme of Christianity and its well known dark relationship to indigenous peoples.

•What ideas does the work cultivate, or questions does the work ask you to consider?

The work urges the reader to consider both the concept of christianity and Indigenous peoples together. It is not a far trot to lead the obvious conclusions of the church's role in residential schooling and systematic abuse of first nations peoples. The work makes the reader ponder this connection if they hadn't already, to see the clash of Jesus' uncaring expression and the concern of the indigenous man behind him and remember the church's atrocities as the mind naturally wanders to what we know about these two concepts together.

•What about this artists' work interests you?

I find the bright colours to be very fun and fascinating to enjoy, as well I enjoy viewing and taking in the stories of indigenous peoples. Also, he is from Edmonton which is where I'm from! So I can connect to this artist on a local level of a shared experience growing up in the same place, even if at different times.

•How does this relate to your art or help with your art process?

This work is a reminder to me that even when dealing with heavy themes the bright colors and shapes I am so fond of can still be used! It was also fun to look into an experience so different from mine and move away from my tendency to favour artists who share my struggles, usually white women of a similar age or demographic to me. It was refreshing to look into a different artist's experiences conveyed through their artwork.

Resources//

<https://www.lattimergallery.com/collections/george-littlechild>

<https://georgelittlechild.com/>

https://www.askart.com/artist/George_Littlechild/11049437/George_Littlechild.aspx