

Artist statement:

For this piece I drew inspiration from interactive ‘graffiti’ art where the viewers are able to pose and take snapshots with the artwork. As a result, I ended up with the idea of a lamp that turns on from a dangle that can be mock-held by the viewer.

I wanted it to be significant to Olds and Alberta as a whole, so I spent a lot of time thinking of physical symbols of the community. The geometric ray holds those symbols in the form of fields, mountains, windmills, and the chinook sky. All of which are physical aspects that make Alberta unique as a province and are things that are appreciated in Olds and the surrounding area. The use of the sunflower as the lamp came to me when I was brainstorming how to bring the abstract sense of community and unity that is found in Olds, to the piece. The use of a plant form to convey the community seemed natural as it hosts an agricultural college and historically has a dependency on the land for its prosperity. It was also a way to bring the collective whimsy of the town to the piece. Metaphorically, this mural highlights the effort of the community to illuminate the land we live on. The area would not be great without the hard work of the people of Olds to make it so.

Artist Bio:

Kyla Organ is a Kaska Tahltan artist whose creative practice revolves around identity and cultural exploration. In her work, she likes to explore how culture and identity is determined in the public and private eye. She views each new project as a way to gain a deeper understanding of herself and her relationships with others. Kyla often works with acrylic paint, but believes that projects require unique and significant material expression.

As the daughter of an RCMP member, Kyla has experienced living in many different communities. This has influenced the way she interacts with and sees community. To her, community is a sense of belonging instead of a physical place. She finds this with her family and friends from the many places she has lived. Her goals moving forward are to continue growing her community and pursuing her work as an artisan.