

Arlene Christmas (Dozay) was born and raised on the banks of the St.John and Tobique Rivers in western New Brunswick. She was the middle child of a large family of nine brothers and sisters and numerous uncles, aunts and cousins. She praises her people's tradition of family togetherness as the inspiration for many of her artistic works.

Dozay left the Tobique Reserve when she was eighteen to pursue her education and interest in art. She worked as a trainee with the New Brunswick Museum, under the direction of Robert Purcival. She later moved to Nova Scotia and enrolled at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax. Her first break as a professional artist occurred by accident in 1982 when she showed an Indian art dealer some of the drawings she had made over the years. Since that time, Dozay has displayed and exhibited her work throughout the Maritimes, Ontario and the United States. Her talent also extends to graphic art, which has led to freelance work for various Aboriginal organizations.



### Profile:

Place of Birth: Negootcook/Tobique First Nation, New Brunswick, Atlantic Canada

Tribal Affiliate: Maliseet

Spoken Language: Maliseet and English Family: Married, two children

Present Residence: Membertou

Nova Scotia, Atlantic Canada

### Education Background:

1976 Graduated Grade XII Schwartz Creek High School, Flint, Michigan

1977-88 Nova Scotia College of Art & Design, Halifax, Nova Scotia

University College of Cape Breton, part-time student

1988-98 Completed various courses and workshops on painting, drawing, computer

graphics and airbrushing

### Employment Experience:

1972 Art Trainee - New Brunswick Museum, St. John, NB

1977 Summer Student - Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia

1978-79 Researcher - Native Communications Society of Nova Scotia, Sydney, NS

1988 Summer Student - Membertou Band Council, Sydney, NS

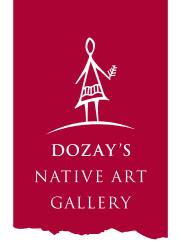
1989-2000 Freelance Graphics and Illustrations 2000-2001 Animation of Native Legend

### Professional Artist:

1989 - Present Co-owner and operator of Dozay Native Art Gallery, Membertou, Sydney, NS

1998 - Present Co-owner of Kinoway Kisitaqn 2002 - Present Member, Nations in a Circle

2006 - Present Member, CARFAC, Ottawa, Ontario



#### Shows and Galleries

1983 - Present Dozay has displayed her art at shows and galleries in:

St. John, New Brunswick

Ottawa, Ontario Halifax, Nova Scotia Moncton, New Brunswick Pasadena, California Lakefield, Ontario Toronto, Ontario

Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia Dartmouth, Nova Scotia Sudbury, Ontario

Sudduly, Citalio

Fredericton, New Brunswick Baddeck, Nova Scotia

Vancouver, British Columbia

Windsor, Ontario Sydney, Nova Scotia Canning, Nova Scotia Eskasoni, Nova Scotia Inverness, Nova Scotia

#### Exhibitions:

1984-1986 Future of Our Children Exhibit, Atlantic Regional Indian Arts and Crafts

Corporation, Moncton, St. John and Halifax

1994-1995 Pe'l A'Tukwey Travelling Exhibition, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia 1995 Solo Exhibition, Gate House Gallery, Sydney, Nova Scotia

1998 Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Industrial Strength, Group Exhibition

2000 Art Gallery of Nova Scotia "Reclaiming History"

2003 University College of Cape Breton Art Gallery, Joint Exhibition,

"Up Where We Belong", Sydney, Nova Scotia

2005 Cape Breton University, Joint Exhibition, Sydney, Nova Scotia

2008 - Present "Glooscap In Unamaki", Wagmatcook, Membertou, Cabot Shores, Millbrook,

Canning, Nova Scotia

2009 Sculpture "First Peoples of the Eastern Door", Joint Project by nine Maliseet &

Mi'kmaq Artists, 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games, Whistler, British Columbia



### Graphic Art and Design:

1981 - Present

Dozay has provided graphic art services for a number of organizations including:

Membertou Band Council
Dalhousie University
Assembly of First Nations
Province of Nova Scotia
Union of Nova Scotia Indians
Native Council of Nova Scotia

Mi'kmaq Family and Children Services

John Cabot Meeting Society Mi'kmaq Justice Institute

Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre

Folkus Atlantic Ltd.

Eskasoni

Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources

Atlantic Wholesalers

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Tui'kn Initiative Donna Cona Inc. Kukwes Consulting Eskasoni Health Centre

Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs

Kwilmu'kw Maw-Klusuagn

Mi'kmaw Association of Cultural Studies

### Wall Murals:

1998 - Present

Dozay has been commissioned to do both outdoor and indoor wall murals for the following organizations or buildings:

Micmac Native Friendship Centre Day Care Eskasoni Fish and Wildlife Commission Membertou Wellness Home

Wagmatcook Cultural and Heritage Centre Membertou Trade and Convention Centre

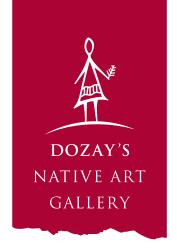
Waycobah Health Centre

Eskasoni Market

Membertou RCMP Detachment

Halifax Regional Municipality Bedford Row Project

Membertou Veterans Memorial Building



### Book Illustrations:

1991 - Present Ki'kwaju aqq Muin (The Badger and the Bear), Eskasoni School Board 1991

Paqtatek, University College of Cape Breton 1991

Loon Rock, University College of Cape Breton Press, 1996

Claypots and Bones, Pka'wo'qq aq Waqntal, Solus Publishing, 1997

Glooscap Legends of Prince Edward Island, unpublished

Tales from Maliseet Country: The Maliseet, University of Nebraska Press, 2007

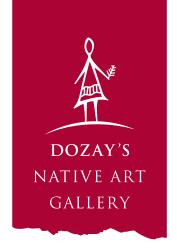
Donations:

1992 - Present Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation, Sydney, Nova Scotia

Odawa Native Friendship Centre, Ottawa, Ontario Atlantic AIDS First Nations Task Force, Halifax, NS

Membertou Senior Citizen's Club, Membertou, Nova Scotia

University College of Cape Breton Silent Auction, Sydney, Nova Scotia Cape Breton Centre for Craft and Design Auction, Sydney, Nova Scotia Canadian Mental Health Association, Auctions, Membertou, Nova Scotia



## Lectures and Teaching:

1987 - Present Eskasoni Elementary & Junior High Schools

Membertou First Nation

New Brunswick College of Craft & Design Eskasoni Training and Education Centre Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design Private classes - drawing and airbrushing

### Committees and Boards:

Nova Scotia Arts Council - Peer Assessment Committee

Art Gallery of Nova Scotia - Pel'A'Tuk'wey Exhibition Committee

Artist's Cooperative Group "Insight" Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design

Arts Cape Breton Nations in a Circle

Mi'kmawey Debert Advisory Committee

CARFAC

Vancouver Olympics High End Engagement Project

#### Publications, Feature Stories & Interviews:

New Brunswick Aboriginal Arts Directory, New Brunswick Art Board, Fredericton, New Brunswick

Paintings of Nova Scotia; From the Collection of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Mora Dianne O'Neill, Nimbus Publishing, 2004

Strength and Spirit Magazine, Cape Breton Partnership, "Crafting a Career Out of Traditional Art" Sydney, Nova Scotia, 2009

ATV "Live at Five" Interview, February 26, 2009

APTN National News Interview, September 2, 2009

From Land and Sea: Nova Scotia's Contemporary Landscape Artists, Nimbus Publishing, 2009