



*"ETSU INGOO"
(Grandmother's Spirit) by Annette Loe
- Mixed Media on Moose hide*

I am a Dene woman. My mother comes from Fort Simpson, my father from Norway.

I was lucky to spend time with Grandma Celine and my Mom when I was in my childhood years. They shared with me, their time and brought out an awareness in me - an appreciation of all that our Creator has made for us - to notice the colors, the forms, the richness and beauty of the land. To see the how the dewdrop on the rose petal becomes a crystal in the sunlight. They shared their knowledge with me.

This moosehide was supplied to our family by the great moose. My mom and me, we smoked and wrapped the meat for our food. The fleshing and scraping of the hide is hard work, it lets you appreciate the durability and strength of the moose. Lets you come into contact and notice the intricate patterns on its hide. At a certain point during the scraping, a voice within nudged me and I glimpsed the potential of this great hide and was urged to do more. It was then I decided to work with this remarkable hide and create what I have. I now share this with you.

This hide speaks of the strength carried through the history of people, of the integral balance we hold with Mother Earth, the wildlife and with the Spirits of our Grandmothers and Grandfathers - a Respect for all beings which walk the earth, now and in the past and those yet to come.

Mussi Cho for sharing in this piece with me.

Annette