

COVER ART

J*ackie Traverse* is an Ojibway artist from Lake St. Martin First Nation and has served provincial time in the Portage jail in Manitoba. She completed a diploma in Fine Arts at the University of Manitoba in 2009. She works in mixed media producing pieces ranging from oil painting to sculpture. In November 2008, she won first prize in the Peace Hills Trust annual Aboriginal art contest. Jackie is an advocate on the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada.

Front Cover: “Reminder”

This painting, of my arms in handcuffs, is called “Reminder”. It is an homage to where I came from and a reminder to never go back. I am not ashamed of the life I have lived nor am I ashamed of my past. I honour my past, after all, it got me here.

Back Cover: “Addiction and Pregnancy”

The second painting is of my hands fixing up a shot. I was addicted to injecting cocaine and I used cocaine while pregnant. The power of addiction was too strong for me and it won over the love I had for my unborn child. This is one of my biggest regrets in life. After doing this painting I was free from this guilt. I think carrying guilt is useless. Art has helped me to heal myself and it has given deeper meaning to my life.