



PERSPECTIVES

BILLY BISHOP TORONTO CITY AIRPORT

January 24, 2025



Aanin Anishinaabe, Boozhoo Indinawaamaaganaadog.

Manidoo Nemeen Nadizhnikaaaz

Nbissing Nadongaabaa

Shagi Dodem

Miangun Dodem

Chi Miigwetch

Greetings, my artist name is Que Rock and my English name is Quentin Commanda. I am an Anishinaabe artist from Nipissing First Nation and I currently work out of Toronto. These designs are inspired from my Anishinaabe culture, teachings, language and ceremonies. These designs are layered in teachings. Each design has a minimum of 7 layers. Teachings layered to highlight the laws of nature. This art form is designed to show the balance of nature and duality. The physical and spiritual worlds. The art is also designed to be a visual healing experience.

The departures and arrivals designs are meant to be welcoming and farewelling with peace love and respect. Aanin and Boozhoo are common greetings in Anishinaabemowin. Aanin is a spiritual acknowledgement that translates to the following “I see your light, I see the light in you, you are a light, I see your Divine, you are Divine”.

Boozhoo is a greeting from the name NanoBoozhoo, who is also known as Nanabush, one of Winona’s many children. Winona is the first Anishinaabekwe (she is the first human, human women from the red nation). Winona and the West wind (Epang Gishmook, her partner) created the first Anishinaabe children. NanoBoozhoo was one of their second set of twins.

Biindgen means welcome in Anishinaabemowin (The language the Anishinaabe speak.) Baamaapii translates to “I will see you later” and is a common farewell. There is no word for goodbye in Anishinaabemowin.

Biskaabiiyaang is describing someone who has been on a long journey and is on their way home. I felt these words in my language complimented everyone travelling through Billy Bishop Airport.

I believe it’s very important to acknowledge the treaties of Tkaronto and Mississauga (1 of 7) Anishinaabek nations from the Seven nation confederacy of the Anishinaabek. Toronto is on treaty 13 territory.

I am from the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850.

- Que Rock