

## At last an Atlas

I also chose this because of its transformative powers within the shedding of one's own skin. I also placed a web in this area to showcase the "web of lies" in my childhood. My web also represents the usefulness of Creators design. In nature a web is spun by spiders as a means to live. It holds onto things that will feed it later and it is constantly re-spun to build and fortify itself. I am both, spider and web; snake and scales. I was lied to and I was fed the truth. I ate and shed what was not needed. In my map the images of drums and silver swirls were chosen by me to speak of my hearts contentment and connection to the creator through sage smudging, sacred fires and tobacco. Being in tune with nature and the customs of my ancestors with drumming in my adult life is the crux of my happiness. I thought I had finished my painting and I stood back and looked at it. I clearly saw the shape of a smile under the moon (grandmother) and I realized that there was not just an eye looking out of my elder years (future) but that there was a face looking out from the whole thing, and that face was smiling. I went back and defined it a bit more so that hopefully when you stand back and look at my map you can see it too.

My path on this part of the journey has been a beautiful rest stop where I could reflect in the company of friends. I was deeply impacted by the dedication and love administered by the facilitators and also by the fact that there was a member of this project who was with child. In the times of reflection it was so honoring to realize that beside me as I re-drew lines I had crossed that an in-utero spirit was present and I felt so hopeful to know that from my life there is proof of nurturing and healing and even hope for a future where there may actually be no great pain visited on a child by a parent, a stranger or a culture. Empowered by the presence of life's waters I feel I created more healing energy than all of Ottawa Hydro could in the same amount of time. The fact that my map was and will continue to be witnessed and shared by others broke for me the spell that my silenced abuse held me with. The more people that see the journey I took then the more people it means travelled it with me hence, I am no longer alone. I thank you, deeply, for honoring me and my past and future with your sight.

My name is Lynda Stewart, Bape Ande Kwe, Laughing-Crow-Woman.