

## ARTIST STATEMENT:

“This exhibition represents a combination of vague, mundane memories of years at the school, and flashes of horror experienced there. They are the strongest memories I could approach without descending into a place I would not be able to emerge from.

This project evolved from decades of need to express my personal outrage at the world, combined with a moment of political timeliness. I thought it would be groundbreaking and exciting to tackle - it turned into four years of nightmares and breakdowns, until I realized I had a more fragile grip on my center than I knew. This was as close as I could come with sharing my story.

Perhaps other Residential School Survivors will take up the gauntlet and exorcise their demons in their own way. Mine have only been exposed - not destroyed. I know now that I cannot carry on living on the surface of my self. My artwork previous to the conception of this project has always been an attempt to find a *raison d'être* and self-respect.

I am incomplete and I need help to heal and achieve peace with my past.

You cannot cauterize an infected wound.”

- R. Gary Miller-Lahiaaks