

Explanatory Note:

Miller (b. 1950) served 11 years (1953-1964) in the Mush Hole - the Mohawk Institute Indian Residential School, located on Mohawk Street in Brantford, Ontario - At the age of 2 he was removed from his longhouse family and community and, at the hands of church authorities, was treated as an object of sexual violence. It was not occasional. This dehumanization was part of the Church-State program. It went on for years. It was not just Miller who was raped, but children from across all the nations of Indigenous peoples in Canada and, one may argue, entire nations themselves violated by legislation and official policy.

Miller is now 63 years old and still painting today. This exhibit is part of his visual testimony to his experience. His question to Canada and the world is about truth and meaningful reparations. How can you forget when they gave you so much to remember? And how can you forgive when apologies are followed by continued assault and theft? Miller believes the Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission is pre-destined for failure and that it is up to the people to tell their own truths, and in that to find the strength to change what is now.

-Neal Keating, Curator