

## Artist Statement

Life happens when we're busy making other plans. We go about our daily lives, breathing, dreaming, burning energy, and working towards building foundations for our goals. We make accomplishments, we have set backs, and all the while the complexities in life swirl around and we find ourselves in places like hospital waiting rooms, interrupted by the ever-moving vehicle called 'Life.'

When I first set out to create a work of art to be considered for the Surgical Day Care Waiting Room in the Koerner Pavilion at UBC Hospital, I thought a lot about my own experiences in hospital waiting rooms. Not only can our time here be worrisome, it can also be quite tedious—one really longs for a positive distraction. I wanted to create a painting that a person could really lose themselves in. A work of art that doesn't reveal itself completely, but at each glance offers something new to be discovered, thereby helping to pass the time whilst sitting in the presence of something aesthetically pleasing.

What I came up with is a larger than life quadriptych, where lines, colour, movement, rhythm, and philosophy come together. Confident inviting colours like magenta, viridian, hunter green, blues, and grays, move forward and fall backward into the space of the painting, offering up an infinite place for the imagination to wander. Lines and pathways intersect and radiate throughout the surface, dancing with Ovoids, and U Forms; and as you stare at the painting, eyes of the North West Coast gaze back at you. It is a relationship built on awe, contemplation, meditation, and getting lost in one's thoughts and distracted, until the Doctor calls your name.

*Biology* was a title that came after. As I sat in front of this large painting thinking up ideas for a name, I couldn't help but think about how it resembled in a way, the very building blocks of life; our cells under a microscope—it was astonishing for me to think about. Biology is the one thing that unites all living things, including; human beings, plants, animals, insects, even bacteria. How perfect I thought, for a painting like this to reside in a place of medicine like the UBC Hospital.

An elder once said, "My DNA is in the land, my home," I can see how this painting represents that idea too. UBC sits on Coast Salish territory, and the shapes that make up North West Coast art are all around us; in the mountains, the waterways, animals, and even in our very own biology—so to speak. These shapes are an interpretation of the world around us, of how my ancestors understood, without scientific knowledge, that every living thing is connected. They say our bodies are made up of stardust, and the energy that radiates inside of me, is the same energy that exists inside of you—it is after all, *Biology*.

*Note: Paintings are numbered 1-4 on the back, and must be hung 6 inches apart for the lines and shapes to match up correctly.*