Artist Statement:

"Myth in its living, primitive form is not merely a story told but a reality lived"
Bronislaw Malinowski

Each of the banners are a visual interpretation and expression of local First Nations' myths and their relationship to Calgary and area. The combination of colors and imagery represent the transformation of elements and seasons through the cycle of life, death and rebirth.

Deer Lady
The story varies, but in this case reminds one not to be enchanted by desires causing one to lose sight of their purpose.

iinisskim
Interesting beliefs were created in hopes to rekindle a depleted, over-hunted buffalo population. One being iinisskim, an ammonite fossil called a "buffalo stone" and another in the form of sacred dance performed wearing a buffalo headdress.

Tricksters
Calgary's winters are synonymous with extreme: one day it's biting cold; the next day a chinook arrives with a warm reprieve. *Tricksters* from First Nations' tales are just as synonymous to their multi-faceted personalities.

Era of the horse
The legends say, the horse (elk dog) *sprung* from the waters and transformed the way of life on the Plains.

Calgary
“Moll-inistsis-in-aka-apewis” in Blackfoot, which literally means "elbow" - where the Elbow and Bow Rivers meet and form an "L"

Old Man
A fun campfire story about the adventures of roasting squirrels and how birch trees got their markings.

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Wil Yee
Born and Raised: Alberta, Canada
Home: Calgary, Alberta. Canada

Art Education
Alberta College of Art and Design
- Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree w/ Major in Illustration
- Minor in Graphic Design

Red Deer College
- Major in Drawing, Painting, Sculpture and Ceramics

Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School
- Commercial Art Certificate

Influences
Love, family, friends and colleagues, comic books, "MAD" Magazine, Dr. Suess (esp. "How The Grinch Stole Christmas"), Leonardo Davinci, folk art, used book stores, heart-pounding music, mind-blowing silence, science, nature, travelling, art-walks and the ludicrousnessnessness of life.

Hi-lites
Knowing what I wanted to do as a result of my first “paid gig” as a Courtroom Sketch Artist for CBC North, covering a historic trial in Yellowknife, NT. Canada.; having the honour to travel and do art walks and festivals in China, Taiwan, U.S., Canada, Mexico and Europe; doing live-painting at events, meeting and collaborating with various inspiring clients and (young and life-experienced)artists; experiencing traditional ceremonies and rituals from indigenous cultures and tribes.

When not scribbling with paints or pixels, I enjoy building things and sewing, outdoor recreation, martial arts, acting(ha!), serving and sharing a deep breath with the world and myself.

For more information visit: www.wilyee.com