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Dreamwalk

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Julie Loffer

Dreamwalk

Thesis Statement

10 April 2021

The day I learned that dreams can be real had a profound effect on my life. As I began to form my art practice, I naturally began to contemplate how we determine what is science fiction and what is real. People seem to divide themselves by who they are or what they believe. There are times when science fiction has become real. For example, the idea that giants or Bigfoot could be real sounds silly to most people. Even though artifacts of unusually large remains are a part of the fossil record, such creatures are considered science fiction.

Giant beavers exist in Indigenous oral histories and stories. They were as huge as today's black bears. Carbon dating of bones determined they existed around 10,000 years ago. This makes me think that the stories I have heard may have had more truth to them than was believed. So many Indigenous stories are presumed metaphorical that perhaps we lost sight of what might have been reports of empirical truths.

Science tells us that oil addiction is bad and pharmaceutical addiction is bad. They pollute our water, our air, and our hearts. There are people who believe the science that explains global warming is fiction. I explore this area of presumed fiction that could be reality in my work. What is real and what is fiction are self-determined beliefs and I like my work to reveal an acceptance of individual free thinking.

I like to use Anishinaabeg culture and oral histories in my work. Many old stories have an element of truth and an element of storytelling that teaches a lesson or a point. Figuring this puzzle out is part of the magic of it. I have spent years studying documentaries about Indigenous people. I consider this knowledge an important tool in my work as well as a witty use of a metaphor or forms of humor to tell stories and express thoughts. I use a combination of fiction and non-fiction for the viewer to consider. When I am creating art I use photography, photoshop, collage, and painting as mediums.

The night sky, galaxies, and stars represent a spiritual realm for me. It is the place we may believe is there, but we have never seen it. In my dreams it is always night. My first experience with

dreamwalking was with my father and my grandfather. My dad woke me up from the dream I was having about my grandfather. When I went to tell my grandfather about the dream, he finished the story that I was telling him as if he were there. For me the dream was real. It may seem silly to believe my story, to modern conventions it is fiction.

Science asks us to consider epigenetics and biology as an explanation. Epigenetics study the changes in a human after the physical structure of DNA. These changes can be inherited. The idea is that science is proving that DNA can pass on the memories, trauma, abilities, fears, and joy of our ancestors. These studies could hold the key to how my grandfather was in my dream and how my dad knew this by looking at me so he could wake me up. Where this dreamwalking ability came from and how I am an artist could all be inherited traits. I am a storyteller and a teacher like those before me. I am an artist. My work reveals my path backwards and forwards. My intention is to use my gifts to do my part to help humanity and to help motivate awakenings.

















