

Hope

Sebastian Bernabe

This artwork, entitled *Hope*, depicts an Indigenous woman who survived Residential School wearing an orange parka for Orange Shirt Day. She is shown against a background of green symbolizing Nature and Mother Earth. Also included are the flags of Canada and NWT, where many families grow up and survive. Over her head is a drawing of a tipi, a structure in which many Indigenous people were raised and called home. The nose is a symbol of river and water and white clouds and a raven flying! Here is a red hand for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and a poppy to remember them. On the woman's head, the feather is her prayer of hope that women and girls will live happily together with their families. The dream catcher will protect her from bad dreams and will make sure she rests well. The mittens, moccasins, bear print, fire, Inukshuk, and tattoos symbolize Northern life. The artist interspersed drawing with playing the piano in creating this artwork.



Born in Fairbanks, Alaska, 8 year old **Sebastian Bernabe** has had a keen interest in reading and drawing since he was 4 years old. Sebastian loves reading novels and history books and has written and illustrated "The Alaskan Boy Who Explored Bush Kids" and "The Rainbow Fish," an e-book published by the British Columbia Public Library. His art was awarded a national award by Imagine A Canada in June 2022. Besides reading and writing, he is an active participant in sports and music, loves playing piano, and uses drawing and writing to express his feelings. Currently, Sebastian is starting a children's book club for the Yellowknife community. His third book, "I Wish I Lived in the Library" was published in English and French in October 2022. Sebastian and his family live in Yellowknife.