

Rayuka Season

Antoine Mountain

This painting shows a Tłıchǫ mother and her child observing the northern lights around the Yellowknife area. In our beliefs the lights represent people who have passed on due to an accident, especially those who are young. Their spirits are restless – they are not on this earth or wherever people might go. The word 'rayuka' literally means stabbing around, moving around really fast in a darting motion. So this is a painting of a mother and her child who have been left behind by their husband and father, or someone close.



Antoine Mountain is Dene from Radlilh Koe (Fort Good Hope) in the Northwest Territories. His love for the land and its people is the root of his artwork, for which he uses acrylics on canvas, favouring the Impressionist style. He is driven by a deep-rooted spiritualism to depict landscapes, the Dene way of life, and portraits. Antoine has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Ontario College of Arts and Design at the University of Toronto, a Master's of Environmental Studies from York University, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Indigenous Studies at Trent University.