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“Regeneration”

Education has always been something that my family has held in high regard. My sister went to the University of Alberta immediately upon graduating high school, eventually graduating from BCIT. Personally, I have faced many struggles through my life and education. I chose to take a break from school following my high school graduation, which quickly turned into six years. Sometimes I look back on my life and regret taking so much time away from school, but then I remember that education is not bound to only teaching institutions, and that I have learned a great deal from overcoming my obstacles and fears that make me who I am today. While out of school, I remained in an abusive relationship where I believed there was no hope for my future. I learned a great deal from that relationship and my support network helped me realize that it is not too late to transform my life into whatever I'd like it to be. My contest submission is a multi-media self- portrait done in ink and watercolor. Face masks are often marketed as transformative and rejuvenating; I've used a face mask in this self-portrait to represent the personal changes I went through physically, mentally and emotionally after my abusive relationship. The reindeer antlers in my piece represent regeneration and new hope; female reindeer antlers are shed each year and regrow. Just as we may decide one route in our education or life's journey, we can always re-invent ourselves and try a new path. Before coming to Kwantlen and jumping into the BFA program, I was enrolled at VCC in attempts to head in the sciences direction like my sister. Soon after starting at VCC, I realized that this program was not for me. The bright colors and circles which overlap the line drawing represent creativity, imagination, hope, dreams, and transformation. Over my time at Kwantlen I have witnessed myself transform into the woman I was meant to be, and will continue to re-imagine, and re-invent myself when obstacles arise, learning from everyone who crosses my path.