

lessLIE

Born in 1973, in Duncan, B.C., lessLIE is Coast Salish of Cowichan, Penelakut, Esquimalt, Irish, Italian, and French descent. His colonized, Catholic, Canadian name is Leslie Robert Sam. His decolonized artist's name is lessLIE. Hitler once said that the bigger the lie you tell, the more people you can get to beLIEve in it. Hitler was a proponent of racism, genocide, and imperialism, which are political forces which lessLIE is fighting against. Picasso once said that art is a lie that tells the truth. In the spirit of the trickster traditions of the Northwest Coast, lessLIE partially beLIEves in this perspective of Picasso's.

lessLIE is a voice of honesty

lessLIE is a voice of veracity

lessLIE has a Bachelor of Arts degree in First Nations Studies from Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo, B.C. While working on this undergraduate degree, lessLIE began to study Coast Salish art. He has been studying Coast Salish art since 1995. lessLIE is currently a graduate student at the University of Victoria, working on a Master of Arts degree in interdisciplinary studies with a focus on Coast Salish art. His thesis is a critique of the literature and lack of literature on Coast Salish art. As a component of this graduate degree, lessLIE has also worked at Thunderbird Park Carving Studio in Victoria.

When he first began to study Coast Salish art, lessLIE was inspired and encouraged by his cousin Joe Wilson. He was later influenced by other young Coast Salish artist's such as Manual Salazar, Maynard Johnny, Jr., Shaun Peterson, Stuart Pagaduan, Luke Marston, and John Marston. The main influences on lessLIE's work are that of Susan Point (to whom he is distantly related to), Robert Davidson, and Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun.