

Carleen Ross, a resident of Sherwood Park, is not just an artist, author, and international speaker, but a testament to the power of passion and perseverance. In 2013, she dipped her brush into the world of art, painting her first green sea turtle. Her talent was undeniable, and it didn't take long for her to secure her first gallery representation. Since then, she has continued to create, amaze, and evolve her work with over 65 stunning green sea turtle paintings being created to date.

Carleen's academic pursuits, including a Bachelor of Science in Psychology (with a focus on animal behaviour) and a Master of Science in Applied Positive Psychology Coaching Psychology, have equipped her with the tools to make a profound difference. She uses her education to deliver conservation and inspirational talks at various organizations and schools, encouraging others to harness their gifts to transform their perception and the world around them. Her international articles and book, *'Journey to the Sea Turtle,'* are a testament to the power of art and education in fostering self-awareness, self-acceptance, and self-actualization. Carleen's artwork and book can be seen in homes across the world.

Carleen has had national-level recognition for her artwork and several solo art shows. Her artwork has been represented alongside Robert Bateman in festivals and calendars, and she has represented Western Canada in international art exhibitions. In 2017, the RCMP Heritage Centre purchased her series titled 'From Sea to Sea,' which showcased the life of an RCMP member. Her artwork is supported by multiple Sea Turtle conservation organizations such as Mālama i nā honu. With each piece she creates, she combines science and art to leave the viewer experiencing beautiful energy as they notice the beauty these animals possess.

Carleen's public talks and programs emphasize the importance of knowing oneself. She accomplishes this by combining science and creative exercises to teach individuals skills for better communication, confidence, and self-awareness. When working with artists, Carleen supports them by sharing ways for them to develop their artistic message and image while improving their overall well-being.

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