

Stanley Panamick



Stanley Panamick (1961–2019), known by his Anishinaabe name *Wandering Spirit*, was not only a gifted artist but also a cherished member of his community, whose presence and wisdom left an indelible mark. A true visionary, Stanley's work transcended the canvas, weaving together vibrant colours, spiritual symbolism, and the profound connection to the natural world that defines the Woodlands style of Indigenous art.

A proud member of the M'Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island, Stanley's artistic journey began in his late teens, when he discovered a deep passion for the Woodland art style. This distinctive form of art, renowned for its bold, expressive colours and its intricate storytelling, captured the essence of the world through Stanley's eyes. It was through the teachings of his older brother, the late Martin Panamick, that Stanley honed his craft and found his voice as an artist. Martin's mentorship guided Stanley, enriching his understanding of the cultural and spiritual traditions of their Ojibwe heritage.

Stanley's work is a testament to his profound connection with the land, animals, and spirit world. His paintings, which often blend wildlife, landscapes, and deeply spiritual narratives, invite viewers to embark on a journey of interpretation and introspection. Each brushstroke reflected his understanding of the world, offering a glimpse into the sacred and untold stories of the Anishinaabe people.

Over the years, Stanley's art gained widespread recognition, and his pieces became part of prestigious collections, including those at the Royal Ontario Museum and the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. His works have graced galleries across Canada, the United States and Europe, touching the hearts of collectors and art enthusiasts worldwide. His legacy lives on through these collections and the countless private and corporate holdings that continue to celebrate his artistry.

However, Stanley's impact extends far beyond the artwork he left behind. He was a gifted storyteller, a leader, and a friend, whose joyful spirit and wisdom enriched the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him. His contributions to the Woodland Art movement have helped shape and elevate Indigenous art, creating a lasting legacy that continues to inspire new generations of artists and art lovers alike.

Through his art, Stanley *Wandering Spirit* will forever remain a guiding light, his creative genius and cultural wisdom etched into each piece. His legacy, imbued with the spirit of his people, will be cherished for generations to come, a reflection of a life lived in harmony with nature, spirit, and the shared stories of his ancestors.