the library

Community Art Exhibit: Esther Boles

Owen Sound, Ontario – February 6, 2025 – Visit the library during February to view the Community Art Exhibit

The library is pleased to welcome local artist and author Esther Boles to the Community Art Exhibit for the month of February. Esther's original drawings for the dual-language picture book QUIOTE, El sueño de Cuco • Cuco's Dream, tell a fresh air adventure for dreamers and fighters around the planet.

Boles grew up in Amherstburg, Ontario, attending French immersion schools. In the summer her family would drive out to California to visit her grandparents in Oakland, a trip through striking and changing landscapes in the 1970s that would take 3 or 4 days, following a narrow highway from horizon to horizon, and sleeping under the stars. Later, her studies brought her to the mountains of central Mexico, where she lived for 27 years while working and raising her family.

The sight of a new maguey flower stalk, or *quiote,* is always incredible for a community—in a garden, the neighbourhood, the schoolyard, or on the hillside. The plant created images, and the images generated text, sometimes in English and sometimes in Spanish from page to page. 'This is a story to connect *maguey kids,'* Boles said. 'Now that I live in Ontario again, I really miss my children and grandchildren in Mexico, and I know that there are hundreds of thousands of people in the same predicament. Many kids are learning English or Spanish, and many are in danger of forgetting it. I hope this book can help and encourage all of us.'

QUOITE is available online in soft or hardcover and to borrow from the library.

The Community Art Exhibit offers an opportunity for local visual artists to display their work. Artists or groups interested in displaying their work must complete an application form and agree to the Library policy. Information about the program can be found at https://www.osngupl.ca/community-art-exhibits/ or email info@library.osngupl.ca.

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Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library is located at: 824 1st Avenue West, Owen Sound, Ontario, N4K 4K4