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Anishinaabe artist Rebecca Belmore on beauty and horror

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One of Rebecca Belmore's best known works, Ayum-ee-aawach Oomama-mowan: Speaking to Their Mother, 1991. (Walter Phillips Gallery/The Banff Centre)

Jian speaks to **Rebecca Belmore**, one of Canada's most prominent contemporary artists, about her multi-disciplinary works, the issues that inspire them and the tension between beautiful art and horrific realities.

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Some of Belmore's most famous pieces address **the Oka Crisis**, the epidemic of **missing and murdered aboriginal women** in Canada, and the **freezing deaths** of aboriginal people left out in the cold by police.

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In 2005, the Ontario-born, B.C.-based artist became the first indigenous woman to represent Canada at the prestigious Venice Biennale. In 2013, she was honoured with a Governor General's Award for her work -- an accolade, accepted before a towering portrait of Queen Elizabeth, that stirred conflicting feelings in her.

Her latest exhibition, *Kwe*, is presently on display at the Scotiabank Contact Photography Festival in Toronto.

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