

Richanda Rhoden, was born in a small town in Western Washington called Aberdeen, which was a lumber mill town, where the residents were divided into two classes, those who owned the mills and those who labored in the mills. Outside the town lay the deep rich forests of Douglas Fir, the Pacific Ocean, the mountains and the Indian reservations. Although Mrs. Rhoden has lived in New York most of her life, her work shows this background. Her studies of Anthropology and Oriental Studies has also left a mark on her work.

Mrs. Rhoden has a strong American Indian heritage of Minosinee, Cherokee and Chotow, from her parents; she believes that the Indian blood in America can be the healing medicine for the self-conscious, unsure quality of our society that is causing such respent breakdowns in every facet of our country.

Mrs. Rhoden was given the Minosinee name ~~q~~ Paytoashtano, at her birth by her grandmother; the translation means, 'a great lady'. The name Richanda comes from the name of a Civil War General who was head of Carlisle Indian School where her mother and father met, General Richard Henry Pratt.