

PRESS RELEASE

Bead by Bead exhibition brings diversity of Indigenous beading to Montreal

Métèque atelier d'art, Native Immigrant and the Beadman Emporium have collaborated with guest curators; **Marg Boyle** and **Marlene Hale** to present a group exhibition entitled **Bead by Bead** which features diverse beadwork by thirteen Indigenous artists. This varied exhibit encompasses both artist and fine arts uses of beads including postmodern expressions of Indigeneity, fashion jewellery and powwow regalia dedicated to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Each artist in this exhibit has a unique voice and this is reflected not only in the quality of the work being presented, but in the diversity of who these First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists are. The thirteen artists are; Amanda Fox, Ashley-Rose Machendagoos, Cheryl McDonald, Craig Commanda, David Charette, Glenn Gear, Jobena Petonoquet, Kaneratonni (Barb Diabo) Marian Snow, Nicole Redstar, Niquita Lynne Thomas, Kahnenrahtanó:ron (Shayla Cook), and Tanya Zilinski.

The guest curators, Wet'suwet'en elder, chef, land protector and beader, **Marlene Hale (Likhsilyu clan)** and **Metissage/ Mi'gmaq Abenaki artist, community arts facilitator and grandmother Marg Boyle (gitpu clan)** worked together to create an exhibition that displays the spiritual and visual beauty of our nations.

The show reflects the ties to this land, the languages, the value systems, the aesthetic traditions and the contemporary realities of Indigenous peoples living on colonized territories. The thirteen artists include both emerging artists and those more established ones who are familiar to the art and Indigenous Montreal communities. Artists from British Columbia to Quebec have been chosen to exhibit in this show.

The show includes several installation art pieces by Kitigan Zibi artist Jobena Petonoquet who expresses her connection to the traditional teachers of her matrilineal grandfather and his ties to the land of his ancestors. Sculptural work by Cayuga artist Niquita Lynne Thomas from Six Nations of the Grand River is displayed on antlers, and an exquisite sculptural piece by Inuk artist Glenn Gear, of Nunatsiavut, incorporates beadwork and driftwood. Métis and Skoman Watershed First Nation, artist Tanya Zilinski displays her technical prowess and spiritual visions in beaded art pieces.

Two artists' work connects to the impact of the covid 19 and celebrates the resilience of our ways of being. Kahnenrahtanó:ron of Awkwesasne has beaded her university graduation cap in elegant beadwork, while master beader and dancer Amanda Fox of Wikwemikong First Nation is exhibiting a colourful floral facial mask.

Also in this exhibit is a full beaded regalia by Cheryl McDonald of Kahnésatake that honours the missing and murdered Indigenous women and children who she dances for, and a powwow piece in velvet and several traditional Haudenasaunee beading techniques will be on display by master beader Marion Snow of Kahnawake.

An intriguing art piece by Algonquin artist, Craig Commanda features a QR code in peyote stitch that participants are invited to use to link to his online poetry that address issues of genocide and survival for the Anishinabeg.

Beader, hoop dancer and choreographer Kanerattoni (Barb Diabo) of Kahnawake will be showing fashion beadwork inspired by the wampum of her nation. Another well respected Ojibway beader, David Charette will have his stunning earrings for sale at this show. Emerging Saulteaux artisan Nicole Redman also uses beaded jewellery to express her connection with her home nation of White Bear First Nation in Saskatchewan. Ojibway designer Ashley-Rose from Whitesand First Nations in Ontario will be displaying coordinating sets of beadwork from her company Zhawenim Designs.

Several of the art and fashion beaded pieces will be for sale during the exhibition which runs from November 18th to Dec. 6th at Métèque atelier d'art, 5442 Côte Saint Luc Road, Montréal. The gallery is open from 12 noon until 5 pm Wednesdays through Sundays. This exhibition is sponsored by the Beadman Emporium and Programme Autochtone Cultivart of the Conseil des Arts de Montréal.

This virtual opening will be done via zoom and artists and the general public are invited to join the curators, organizers, and funders to our virtual celebration of who we are as Indigenous peoples through our diverse expressions in Bead by Bead. Contact beadbybeadsubmissions@gmail.com for a link to the zoom vernissage!

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