

ONSITE GALLERY

2022-2023 REPORT



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FAMILY



ONSITE
GALLERY



Front Cover Image: Installation view, *Souvenir* by Jordan Bennett at Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, 2022. Photo by Martin Iskander

Inside Cover Image: Installation view, *Souvenir* by Jordan Bennett at Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, 2022. Photo by Martin Iskander

I am pleased to share with you our Onsite Gallery Report for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. With a full return to in-person activity with no disruptions, Onsite Gallery opened several exciting exhibitions and projects that were accompanied by free community programs, lectures and workshops. Our report showcases the activity that has taken place throughout the past year, that has engaged both the OCAD University community and a broader public audience.

2022-2023 was also a milestone year for Onsite Gallery as we celebrated 5 years at 199 Richmond St. West. To celebrate, we held a birthday party on Friday, December 2 and invited the OCAD community.

Jordan Bennett x2 was extremely successful at two locations on campus and ran from June 14 – December 10, 2022. The first is Bennett's solo exhibition *Souvenir* at Onsite Gallery, and the second is *pi'tawita'iek: we go up river*, a large-scale mural overlooking Butterfield Park on the façade of our main campus building at 100 McCaul Street.

We continued our successful collaboration with the Inuit Art Foundation with our exterior mural series *Up Front: Inuit Public Art @ Onsite Gallery* with three commissions since April 2022. The artists included Kablusiak, Kyle Natkusiak Aleekuk and Robert Kautuk. Each mural was unique and contributed towards expanding the notion of what Inuit art is and can be.

In Fall 2022, we were pleased to present artist Natalie King's *Pure Joy* during Nuit Blanche. Onsite Gallery received a nomination from Galleries Ontario | Ontario Galleries (GOG Awards) for *Fable for Tomorrow: A Survey of Works* by Wendy Coburn, guest curated by Andrea Fatona and Caroline Langill in the category Exhibition of the Year Budget \$20,000 Monographic. I was also honoured to receive the Changemaker BIPOC award.

In January 2023, Onsite Gallery opened the technological media-based group exhibition *more-than-human* to much success. *more-than-human* was represented through creative-research intersecting and intervening between science, ecology, technology and art.

We hope you'll make your way to Onsite Gallery to see our current exhibition *On Americanity and Other Experiences of Belonging* before it closes on December 9th and complementary programming over the fall season. Our exhibitions and community engagement represent everything we strive for at Onsite Gallery, to present contemporary, Indigenous, and public art and design professional practices to advance knowledge creation and stimulate conversations on the urgent issues of our time.

I hope you enjoy the following report and I look forward to seeing you at Onsite Gallery soon. Thank you so much for your incredible generosity and support.

Warmly,

Ryan Rice
Executive Director + Curator, Indigenous Art
Onsite Gallery

Jordan Bennett x2: Souvenir

June 15 to December 09, 2022



Image: *Souvenir* by Jordan Bennett, at Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, 2022. Photo by Martin Iskander

Souvenir is a solo exhibition at Onsite Gallery with Jordan Bennett curated by Ryan Rice, Executive Director + Curator, Indigenous Art, Onsite Gallery

Bennett's first solo exhibition in Toronto, *Souvenir* draws upon his inspired intentions to visit, activate and respond to the innovative heritage embedded, woven and veiled in the richness of Mi'kmaq material culture and design.

Bennett's interdisciplinary and intuitive approach grants new vitality to overlooked

cultural expressions that carry elaborate Mi'kmaq cosmologies interpreted through customary geometric motifs. These motifs are embellished in a highly valued era of porcupine quillwork and basketry souvenir trade commodities that was thriving in the 19th century.

The exhibition brought together Bennett's newly designed site-specific work, museum collection loans and installation to celebrate the vitality and influence of Indigenous aesthetic as contemporary practice.

"The customary and innovative practices and complex technologies Bennett responds to are those employed by generations of Mi'kmaq artists, the majority women, who have addressed and enhanced their claimed histories, storied through the agency of art and design...Bennett is committed to rematriate the Mi'kmaq visual language legacy and its processes in order for the medium to be received, endured and continued to map distinction to a culture, ecology and geography."

*~Ryan Rice
Executive Director + Curator, Indigenous Art
Onsite Gallery*

"For me, working with these designs in paintings mostly—I have only done a little bit of quillwork—is quite exciting. I don't have the skill in making, so I can only imagine creating the designs with your hands, not just with pencil and paint the way I do when making my paintings and murals."

~ Jordan Bennett



Image: Opening night reception, *Souvenir* by Jordan Bennett, at Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, 2022. Photo by Martin Iskander

Jordan Bennett x2: pi'tawita'iek: we go up river

June 15, 2023 to 2028

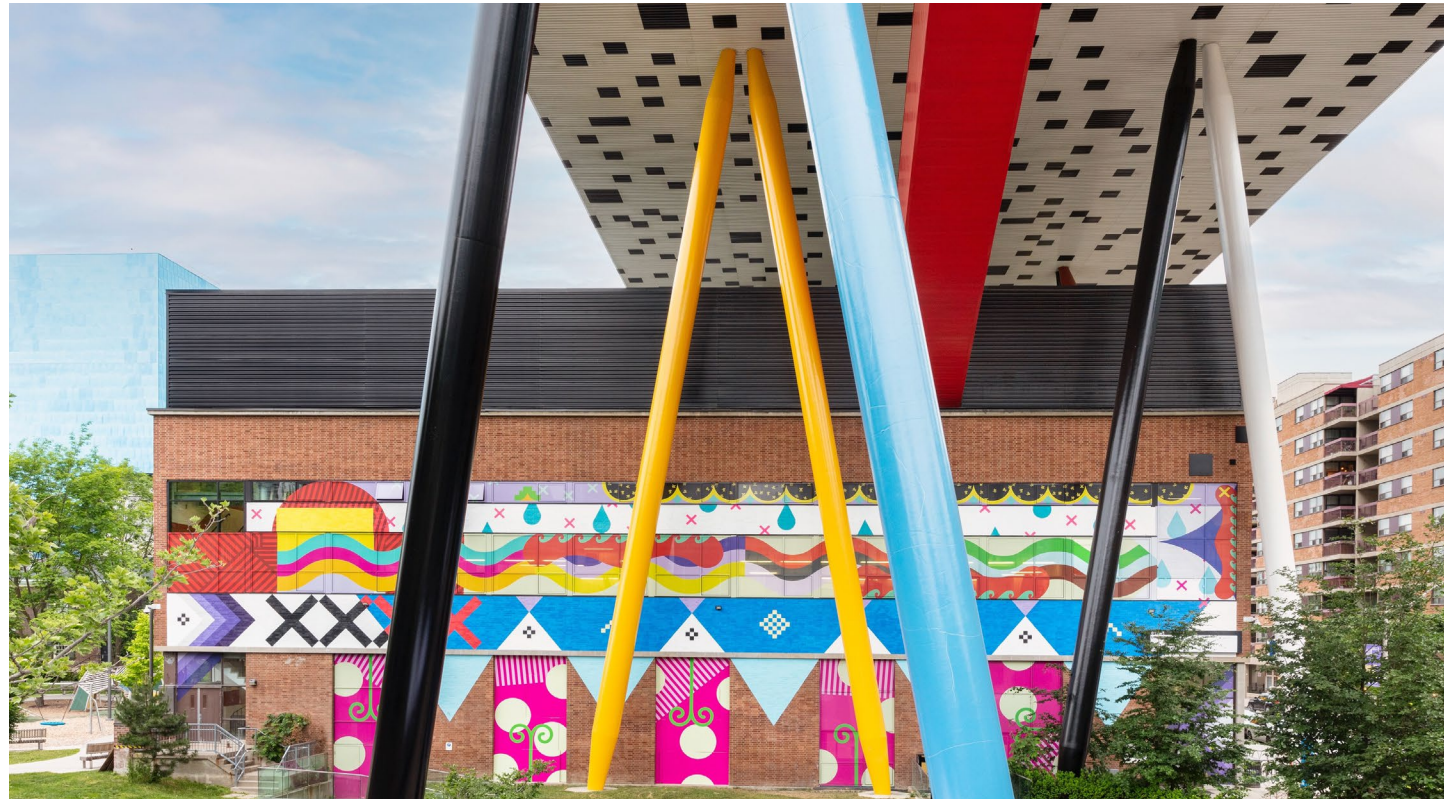


Image: *pi'tawita'iek we go up river* by Jordan Bennett, at 100 McCaul St., OCAD University, 2022. Photo by Jeremy Mimnagh

pi'tawita'iek: we go up river is a breathtaking mural by artist Jordan Bennett on the south wall of OCAD University's main campus, adjacent to Butterfield Park, that grounds the space in Indigenous material culture. Curated by Lisa Deanne Smith, Senior Curator, Manager OCAD U Galleries System, Onsite Gallery, this new public artwork is rooted in Bennett's relationships with Mi'kmaq porcupine quillwork. He brings forward and reimagines their graphic patterns, bright colours and inspiring stories. In visiting with these cultural objects Bennett connects with their visual language and furthers this visual conversation through his contemporary influences and experience.

June 15th provided lovely weather for an outdoor celebration of Jordan Bennett's new mural with our many communities. The event featured a touching speech from Bennett, acknowledgements, refreshments and music by Ziibiwan.

So much of Bennett's work challenges colonial perceptions of Indigenous histories and presence, lending itself to discussions regarding contemporary Indigenous realities within urban and rural communities. His visit was a powerful time of contemplation during National Indigenous History Month at OCAD U.

"pi'tawita'iek: we go up river deepens a vital conversation about Indigenous Peoples' survivance and joy. Its bright colours within bold, elegant forms reference the atmosphere and Earth, helping to complicate and humanize our understanding of Indigenous Peoples, demonstrating that they are ancestrally grounded and continuously evolving,"

*~ Lisa Deanne Smith
Curator, pi'tawita'iek: we go up river*

*Senior Curator, Onsite Gallery +
Manager OCAD U Galleries System*

"This new work will be a growing extension of Indigenous presence and story, acting as an invitation to gather in a safe, bright space and further this tradition of nation-to-nation relationships."

~ Jordan Bennett

"By seeking to understand Indigenous stories and traditional knowledge systems through art, each of us can take another step on the journey towards greater reconciliation and understanding."

*~ Ana Serrano
President
and Vice-Chancellor,
OCAD University*

Programming and Events

From June to December of 2022, many programs, events and community offerings connected to the two exhibitions took place. From curator tours and artists talks, to a Birchbark & Quill Workshop, the opportunity for gallery patrons and OCAD U community members to engage with Bennett’s work were plentiful.

WE’RE PLEASED TO SHARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS BELOW:

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

2,194

Total number of gallery attendees - 2,194

12,000

Nuit Blanche Mural Attendees 12,000

NUMBER OF SCHOOL TOURS & STUDENTS

30

Total number of school tours - 30

Total number of students - 551

6 GTA high school tours - 146 students

22 OCAD University tours - 361 students

2 Brock University tours - 29 students

NUMBER OF EVENTS

17

Total number of events related to Jordan Bennett x 2 - 17

JUNE 09, 2022

Coffee Chat with Jordan Bennett
in collaboration with RBC Centre for
Emerging Artists and Designers
- 14 attendees

JUNE 15, 2022

Mi’kmaq by Design Speaker Series
with Jordan Bennett at 100 McCaul Street
- 45 attendees

JUNE 15, 2022

Mural Opening at Butterfield Park
- open to the public

JUNE 15, 2022

Opening Reception at Onsite Gallery
- 128 attendees

AUGUST 24, 2022

Ryan Rice’s Curatorial Tour of *Souvenir*
- 44 attendees

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

Birchbark & Quill Workshop
with Kyle Sauve of Mnaabndam Creations
- 15 attendees

SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

Curator’s Tour
with Lisa Deanne Smith and Ryan Rice
- 33 attendees

SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

Mi’kmaq by Design Speaker Series
with Julia Sutherland
- 10 attendees

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

Special Curator’s Tour for OCAD U
National Reconciliation Awareness Week
with Ryan Rice
- 50 attendees

OCTOBER 01 TO OCTOBER 02, 2022

Nuit Blanche at OCAD University
- *Proud Joy* Exhibition
- 12,000 attendees

OCTOBER 06, 2022

Cultural Economies: Grant Jonathan
- 25 attendees

OCTOBER 20, 2022

ImagineNative Arts Crawl
- 126 attendees

NOVEMBER 19, 2022

Mi’kmaq by Design Speaker Series
with Logan MacDonald
- 13 attendees

OCTOBER 28, 2022

Presentation of Breathing Room: Jordan
Bennett’s *Souvenir* at U of T
with Ryan Rice
- 30 attendees

NOVEMBER 30, 2022

Reviving Lost Histories in Indigenous and
Black/African Communities
- 50 online attendees

DECEMBER 02, 2022

Onsite Gallery 5th Anniversary
at 199 Richmond Street West
- 25 attendees

DECEMBER 09, 2022

Dyke Night
- 30 attendees



Image: Mural launch celebration with music by Ziibiwan at 100 McCaul Street, OCAD University, 2022. Photo by Martin Iskander



Image: Nuit Blanche Exhibition *Proud Joy* with works by Natalie King and Jordan Bennett at 100 McCaul Street, 2022. Photo by Em Moor



Image: Bruce Kuwabara of KPMB Architects with Jordan Bennett at 100 McCaul Street, 2022. Photo by Martin Iskander



Image: ImagineNative Arts Crawl at Onsite Gallery, 2022. Photo by Amir Abdolizadeh



Image: Birchbark & Quill Workshop with Kyle Sauve of Mnaabndam Creations at Onsite Gallery, 2022. Photo by Susan Jama



Image: Mi'kmaq by Design Speaker Series - Logan MacDonald at Onsite Gallery, 2022. Photo by Zain Bhanapatel



Image: Birchbark & Quill Workshop with Kyle Sauve of Mnaabndam Creations at Onsite Gallery, 2022. Photo by Susan Jama



Image: Curator's Tour with Ryan Rice at Onsite Gallery, 2022. Photo by Ghislan Timm

more-than-human

February 01 to May 13, 2023



Image: Installation view, *more-than-human* at Onsite Gallery, 2023. Photo by Em Moor.

Curated by Jane Tingley, *more-than-human* presents media artworks at the intersection of art, science, Indigenous worldviews and technology that speculatively and poetically use multimodal storytelling as a vehicle for interpreting, mattering and embodying more-than-human ecologies. The artworks in this exhibition aim to critically and emotionally engage with the important work of decentering the human and rethinking the perspective that sees nature as a lifeless resource for exploitation. Many of the artworks use technological

and scientific tools as entry points for witnessing and interacting with these more-than-human worlds, as they help visualize phenomena beyond human sensory perception while nevertheless situating us within them. Combined, the artworks in the show weave a story that tells a tale of symbiosis, intersections and more-than-human relationality. They incorporate scientific, philosophical and Indigenous perspectives to create an experiential tapestry that asks the viewer to reconsider, reorient and rethink relationships with the more-than-human.



Image: Installation view, *more-than-human* at Onsite Gallery 2023. Artwork shown, Lindsey French, "*Phytovision*", 2023. Photo by Em Moor.

"I enjoyed that the exhibition incorporated other sensory fields in the arts, such as touch to gain an immersive experience."
~Onsite Gallery Patron

"I enjoyed the interactive and virtual-reality components of the exhibition. The show is exhilarating."
~Onsite Gallery Patron



Image: Installation view, *more-than-human*, 2023. Artwork shown: Joel Ong, *Untitled Interspecies Umwelten*, 2023. Photo by Em Moor.



Image: Installation view, *more-than-human*, 2023. Artwork shown: Joel Ong, *Untitled Interspecies Umwelten*, 2023. Photo by Em Moor.

Programming and Events

From February to May of 2023, many programs, events and community offerings took place. Events such as 2 artist panels, a film screening and a guided nature and forest therapy walk provided gallery patrons and OCAD U community members many ways to engage with *more-than-human*.

WE'RE PLEASED TO SHARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS BELOW:

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

1,612

Total number of gallery attendees - 1,612

NUMBER OF SCHOOL TOURS & STUDENTS

16

Total number of school tours - 16

Total number of students - 265

1 GTA high school tour - 18 students

15 Post-Secondary tours - 247 students

NUMBER OF EVENTS

6

Total number of events related to *more-than-human* - 6

FEBRUARY 01, 2023

Opening Reception

- 223 attendees

FEBRUARY 02, 2023

more-than-human Artists Panel Discussion Part 1

In-person and live-streamed: with artists Rasa Smite & Raitis Smits, Grace Grothaus, Lindsey french and curator Jane Tingley

- 30 in-person and 20 online attendees

MARCH 23, 2023

Multiplicities and plurality: Curator Jane Tingley in Conversation with Dr. Karen Houle

In-person & recorded: with facilitator Dr. Karen Houle and exhibition curator Jane Tingley

- 16 attendees

APRIL 21, 2023

Screening of *Forest Mind* followed by Q+A with Ursula Biemann

Live-streamed online: with exhibition artist Ursula Biemann and exhibition curator Jane Tingley

- 127 online attendees

APRIL 29, 2023

more-than human Artists Panel Discussion Part 2

In-person and live-streamed: with exhibition artists Joel Ong, Jane Tingley, Dolleen Tisawii'ashii Manning and Mary Bunch with Onsite Gallery moderator Lisa Deanne Smith.

- 124 in-person and 16 online attendees

MAY 13, 2023

Guided Nature and Forest Therapy Walk

In-person at High Park: with Facilitators Vivian Bird and Lisa Deanne Smith

- 8 attendees

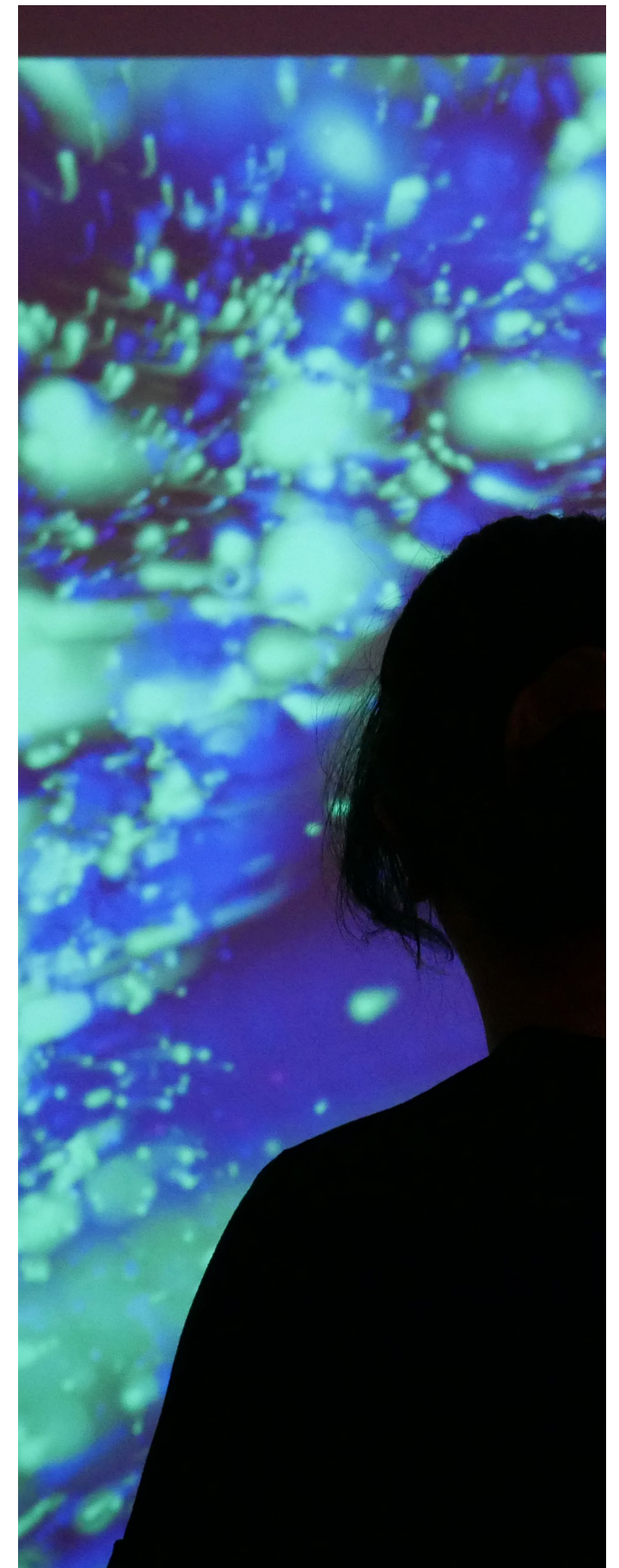


Image: Opening Reception of *more-than-human* at Onsite Gallery, 2023. Photo by Ghislan Timm



Image: *more-than-human* Curatorial Tour with Karen Houle & Jane Tingley at Onsite Gallery, 2022. Photo by Mariam Fahmy



Image: *more-than-human* Artists Panel Discussion Part 2 at Onsite Gallery, 2023. Photo by Zain Bhanapatel



Image: *more-than-human* Artists Panel Discussion Part 1 at Onsite Gallery, 2023. Photo by Mariam Fahmy



Image: Tea Ceremony during Forest Therapy Walk by Lisa Deanne Smith & Vivian Bird at High Park, 2023. Photo by Lisa Deanne Smith

Upfront: Inuit Public Art



Image: *Plucked Ookpik* and *Furby Ookpik* by Kablusiak part of *Up Front: Inuit Public Art* at Onsite Gallery, 2022. Photo by Francisco Alvarez.

In partnership with the Inuit Art Foundation (IAF), Onsite Gallery presents *Up Front*, a new series of commissioned murals by Inuit artists. Onsite Gallery recognizes the important contributions of the Inuit art sector and is pleased to work with the IAF to support Inuit art and artists in the public realm. This new series of public art murals of digital art will be displayed on the exterior façade of the gallery. Produced in vinyl, four Inuit artists will be commissioned over two years to create these public digital art pieces. Curated by Ryan Rice, the first mural was installed in April 2022.

The Inuit Art Foundation (IAF) is the only national organization supporting Inuit artists in all medias and geographic areas. It empowers and supports Inuit artists' self-expression and self-determination through its many platforms, including the Inuit Art Quarterly (IAQ), Canada's largest art magazine, the IAQ Profiles, artist services, awards, scholarships and mentorship opportunities.

KABLUSIAK *PLUCKED OOKPIK AND FURBY OOKPIK*

(2021, 2021)
Digital-print vinyl mural
On display from April to October 2022

Kablusiak is an Inuvialuk artist/curator who uses Inuk ingenuity to create work in a variety of mediums including, but not limited to, lingerie, soapstone, Sharpies, bedsheets, felt and words.

Their work explores the dis/connections between existence in Inuit diaspora while maintaining family and community ties, the impacts of colonization on Inuit gender and sexuality expressions, as well as on health, wellbeing and the everyday.

Kablusiak holds a BFA from Alberta University of Arts in Mohkinstsis, where they are currently based. Their work can be found in the collections of the Indigenous Art Centre, the Art Gallery of Alberta and Global Affairs Visual Art Collection among others.

Upfront: Inuit Public Art



Image: *Northern Flash*, 2022 by Kyle Natkusiak Aleekuk, part of *Up Front: Inuit Public Art* at Onsite Gallery, 2022. Photo by Ryan Rice

KYLE NATKUSIAK ALEEKUK *NORTHERN FLASH*

(2022)
Digital-print vinyl mural
On display from November 2022
to March 2023

Kyle Natkusiak Aleekuk's works are inspired by the bold colours and style of the printmakers of Ulukhaktok, Northwest Territories, including his grandfather Peter Aliknak Banksland and great aunt Agnes Nanogak Goose.

"Kyle Aleekuk's tattoo designs are an example of blending the traditional with the contemporary. His work reflects the evolution of Inuit culture and the continued ingenuity of our people," says Heather Campbell, Strategic Initiatives Director at the Inuit Art Foundation.

Born and raised in Edmonton, Alberta, Aleekuk incorporates elements of contemporary design while honouring the rich history of printmaking in the North.

"Kyle's work, *Northern Flash*, 2022, is inspired by and expands upon the esteemed internationally-renowned printmaking practices that stretch across multiple generations of Inuit artists," says Ryan Rice.

"By interpreting Western Canadian Arctic iconography such as skidoos, caribou herds, fishing lines and accustomed Inuksuk in the graphic-style of classic Americana flash tattoos, he designs an accessible representation of contemporary Inuvialuk culture and identity drawn from lived experiences and his own relationships with the land, community and family that is skin deep," he adds.



ONSITE GALLERY 5th Anniversary Celebration

Five years ago Onsite Gallery opened its doors to the public for the first time at its new location at 199 Richmond St. W., where more than 1,000 visitors toured the gallery and celebrated at the outdoor street party.

Since then, ~50,000 people have passed through the University's flagship professional gallery. Visitors and members of the OCAD U community have seen a diverse, compelling range of eighteen exhibitions aimed at stimulating conversations on the urgent issues of our time.

In addition, Onsite Gallery has hosted and curated Nuit Blanche projects every year since 2017.

The Gallery has also won prestigious awards and received numerous accolades for its captivating exhibitions.

Onsite Gallery has showcased innovative programming that has stimulated art, design and digital media research, creation, exhibition and dialogue that has activated the wider public and university communities and has earned accolades within the arts and culture sector.

To mark its fifth anniversary, Onsite Gallery invited students, faculty, staff and the public to celebrate this momentous occasion.



Image: Onsite Gallery 5th Anniversary. Photo by Briar Smith-Twase



Image: Caroline Langill, Ana Serrano & Ryan Rice as part of Onsite Gallery 5th Anniversary, 2022. Photo by Briar Smith-Twase



Image: ImagineNative Arts Crawl at Onsite Gallery, 2022. Photo by Amir Abdolizadeh

ONSITE GALLERY STAFF:

Ryan Rice, Executive Director, Onsite Gallery and Curator, Indigenous Art
Lisa Deanne Smith, Senior Curator, Onsite Gallery
Susan Jama, Programs & Community Coordinator, Onsite Gallery
Kesa Smith, Curatorial Assistant, Onsite Gallery

ONSITE GALLERY ADVISORY BOARD:

Tim Gilbert (Chair), Patrick Burke, Andrea Carson Barker (2022-2023), Ankesh Chandaria, Nancy Jain, K.J. McCusker, Ana Serrano

JORDAN BENNETT X 2 SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

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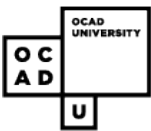
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MORE-THAN-HUMAN SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS



UPFRONT: INUIT PUBLIC ART PARTNERS



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**ONSITE GALLERY PRESENTS
CONTEMPORARY, INDIGENOUS,
AND PUBLIC ART AND DESIGN
TO ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE
CREATION AND STIMULATE
LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL
CONVERSATIONS ON THE
URGENT ISSUES OF OUR TIME.**

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LISA DEANNE SMITH

Senior Curator, Onsite Gallery

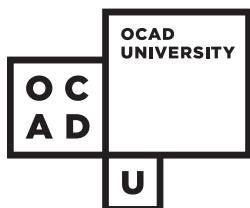
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OCAD University acknowledges the ancestral territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabeg and the Huron-Wendat, who are the original owners and custodians of the land on which we work, stand and create.



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THANK YOU!