

THUNDER BAY ART GALLERY PRESENTS

AANIKOOBIJIGANAG
BEADING
SYMPOSIUM

FEBRUARY 8 - 10, 2024

 THUNDER BAY
ART GALLERY

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges that we are located on the territory of the Anishinaabe peoples of Northern Ontario. We work, live and create on the lands of the Fort William First Nation who are signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850.

The Gallery recognizes the many contributions Indigenous peoples have made, both in shaping and strengthening this community, our province, and country as a whole.

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery is committed to continuing to build, strengthen, and honour our relationships with Indigenous peoples in our community and region. We embrace our role and responsibilities in a national reconciliation process and are committed to making the promise and the work of Truth and Reconciliation real in our community.

THUNDER BAY ART GALLERY

As the **largest public art gallery** in Northern Ontario, the Thunder Bay Art Gallery is a leader in the exhibition and collection of visual arts throughout the region. Every day the Gallery cultivates engagement by providing school tours, hosting arts events and classes, or sharing our space with community groups. With 90% of Ontarians agreeing that arts experiences help bring people from diverse backgrounds together as a community, the Thunder Bay Art Gallery serves as a regional cultural hub committed to developing connections through contemporary Indigenous, local, and regional art.

WELCOME TO **ANIKOOBIJIGANAG:** **THUNDER BAY BEADING** **SYMPOSIUM**

The Thunder Bay Art Gallery is proud to present the first-ever beading symposium in Northern Ontario. This 3-day event celebrates the joy of beading. In Anishinaabemowin, the word *Aanikoobijiganag* speaks of creating new links and connections. This gathering is designed for you to have fun, learn new skills, level up knowledge and techniques, and relax, while connecting with professional beaders, artists, curators, as well as other makers. This event highlights the rich talent of beading and craft practices in our region, including artists from Fort William First Nation.

BEADING IS BELONGING.

Our city is a regional hub for beading. Our region could be considered the heart of Anishinaabe or Ojibwe floral. A gathering of beaders, crafters, artists, curators, and leaders in contemporary craft-based practices in Thunder Bay acknowledges and celebrates the flourishing beading community and the expertise and knowledge flowing from this place. The history of beadwork prominent to this region includes many accomplished Anishinaabe and Métis bead artists from surrounding First Nation communities, including Fort William First Nation and fly-in reserves and communities. This is an exciting time for contemporary Indigenous beadwork, and we are here for it. This event brings us together through beadwork and embraces skill-sharing, honouring traditional knowledge, and sharing space.

RADICAL STITCH

Radical Stitch looks at the contemporary and transformative context of beading through the aesthetic innovations of artists and the tactile beauty of beads. Beading materials and techniques are rooted in both culturally informed traditions and cultural adaptation, functioning as a place of encounter, knowledge transfer, and resistance. Connecting to a tradition of making, exercised over thousands of years, this skill-based practice ties one artist to another, past to present and beyond.

The exhibition includes a range of work from the customary to the contemporary, with a variety of approaches, concepts, and purposes. Gathering together top artists from across North America/Turtle Island, the selected pieces exemplify the current and future directions of some of the most exciting and impressive practices. The works in *Radical Stitch* invite viewers to immerse themselves in the political, creative, and aesthetic dimensions of beadwork.

Radical Stitch is organized and circulated by the MacKenzie Art Gallery. Curated by Sherry Farrell Racette, Michelle Lavallee, and Cathy Mattes.

This exhibition is on view at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery until March 3, 2024.

DAY 1 • THU FEB 08

SCHEDULE

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

REGISTRATION - *Baggage Building Arts Centre (Baggage Building) 220 Sleeping Giant Parkway*
Boozhoo/Hello! Register & grab your swag bag.

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

SMUDGE & OPENING PRAYER w/ Audrey DeRoy (30 min.) - *Baggage Building, Eagle's Nest (Mezzanine)*

WELCOME SHOW AND SHARE - *Baggage Building, Eagle's Nest (Mezzanine)*

Each participant is invited to bring a meaningful belonging that will be used with the introductions to the group. Upon arrival, you can place the item on a designated table. We will use this opportunity to introduce ourselves. The item you bring is a tool to communicate a little about you.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

LUNCH BREAK - Catered by Tania Johnson - *Baggage Building (Main Floor)*

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Workshop #1 Gifts of the Porcupine: A Quillwork Intensive w/ Jean Marshall - *Baggage Building, Jumping Fox (Gallery)*

All about quills. Learn how to sew porcupine quills onto home-tanned hide. This workshop is not designed for a finished product. It is about having fun, visiting, honouring the porcupine and exploring its quill. Participants will learn about the zig-zag technique. Helper: Shelby Gagnon

Workshop #2 Applique Beadwork w/ Katie Longboat - *Baggage Building, Eagle's Nest (Mezzanine)*

Learn how to design and bead a mini floral medallion. Participants will be able to view examples of floral beadwork and learn from Katie by watching her design process. Level up on beading materials and learn new beading techniques. Helper: Betty Carpick

5:30 PM

Bus pick up at the Baggage Building and drop off at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery

6:00 PM OPENING NIGHT

PUBLIC RECEPTION & OPENING REMARKS - *Thunder Bay Art Gallery, 1080 Keewatin St*

Visit the exhibition *Radical Stitch* in our main galleries and a selection of works from our Collection in our Public Programming Studio. Mix and mingle with artists and co-curators of *Radical Stitch*.

7:00 PM

Bus pick up at Thunder Bay Art Gallery and drop off at Confederation College

7:30 - 9:00 PM

CURATORIAL PANEL | *Gathering Threads: Conversations Inside Radical Stitch* - Dibaajimogamig Lecture Theatre, Confederation College, 1450 Nakina Dr.

A keynote panel with co-curators of the exhibition *Radical Stitch*, Sherry Farrell Racette, Cathy Mattes and Michelle LaVallee. Moderated by Melissa Twance. Livestreamed on YouTube: [@thunderbayartgallery](#)

9:15 PM - 9:30 PM

Bus pickup at Confederation College and drop off at the Delta Hotel Port Arthurs Landing

Day 2 • FRI FEB 09

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Workshop #3 Fish Skin Tanning w/ Leanna Marshall - *Baggage Building, Jumping Fox (Gallery)*

A guided journey into fish skin leather. Participants will make leather out of fish skins. Each participant will leave with a fish skin leather, an instructional booklet on how to tan fish skin, and samples of items that they can make after the workshop. Leanna utilizes stories and poetry to deepen our connection with the waters and fish. Helper: Jean Marshall

Workshop #4 Birchbark Basketry w/ Gail Bannon - *Baggage Building, Eagle's Nest (Mezzanine)*

Gail Bannon shares her knowledge of, and love for the birch tree. Working with wiigwaas (birch bark) she shares teaching of how to harvest birch bark respectfully. She will teach participants how to use cedar, spruce roots, and other raw materials to create their own wiigwaas mukuk (birchbark basket). Helper: Betty Carpick

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

LUNCH BREAK - Catered by Tania Johnson - *Baggage Building (Main Floor)*

OPTIONAL | *Beadwork Installation* - St. Joseph's Hospital, 35 Algoma St N

Brisk walk up to St. Joe's Hospital to view the latest exhibition in their hallway vitrine. Featuring beadwork by the Gustafson family.

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

ARTIST TALK | Nico Williams - *Baggage Building, Eagle's Nest (Mezzanine)*

Nico Williams is a featured artist in *Radical Stitch*. He will share his mind-bending beading practice and his experience as a trailblazer in contemporary sculptural beadwork.

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM **CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE**

DROP-IN & DEMO | *Hide Tanning: Freeze, Scrape and Soften w/ Kanina Terry & Shelby Gagnon - Baggage Building, Jumping Fox (Gallery), and outdoors*

Shelby and Kanina are fellow hide tanners and will share their hide tanning stories with you. They will also show you their tool bundles and discuss their different uses. Part of the demo will be an interactive experience teaching you how to freeze and scrape moosehide. **Dress warm**, this will be an outdoor activity.

Sewing Circle Hosted by Shannon Gustafson & Justine Gustafson - *Baggage Building, Eagle's Nest (Mezzanine)*

Bring a project to work on as we visit together in a relaxed atmosphere.

Free Skate at the Waterfront - *Port Arthur's Landing, Waterfront*

The City of Thunder Bay offers a public ice rink next to the Baggage Building. Bring Your Own Skates.

5:00 - 8:00 PM

Indigenous Artisan's Market - *Goods & Co. Marketplace, 251 Red River Rd.*

A special pop-up market featuring local artists, makers, and artisans. Expect to see beadwork, ribbon skirts, quill work, paintings and prints, and more. Support local! If you are interested in setting up a table, please reach out to Jean Marshall.

7:00 - 9:00 PM

PUBLIC RECEPTION | Aanikoobidoon: Stringing Together Past, Present, and Future. - *Co. Lab Gallery at Goods & Co, 251 Red River Road.* Organized by Melissa Twance.

Let's party! Join us for a joyous opening reception for a new exhibition at Co.Lab gallery. Enjoy art, food, music, friends, and special bead-worthy mocktails and cocktails.

"Aanikoobidoon is the act of stringing things together. For generations, our Anishinaabeg ancestors have strung beads together, developing their own unique techniques, styles, and designs to adorn themselves and their loved ones. This exhibit brings together 10 artists from First Nation communities across Northern Ontario."

- Melissa Twance

Get home safe. Share cabs/Urides if you can. Download the Uride app at [uride.co](#)

Day 3 • SAT FEB 10

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Workshop #5 Edge Beading w/ Shannon Gustafson - *Baggage Building, Jumping Fox (Gallery)*

Participants will learn basic edge-beading techniques by constructing an embroidered medicine pouch that is ready to take home. Helper: Betty Carpick

Workshop #6 Caribou Tufting w/ Delaney Keshena - *Baggage Building, Eagle's Nest (Mezzanine)*

Tufting caribou and moose hair is an embellishment craft practiced across many Indigenous communities and nations. Participants will be guided through the selection of natural materials to create stunning earrings or pendants that will last a lifetime. Helper: Shelby Gagnon

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

LUNCH BREAK - Catered by Tania Johnson - *Baggage Building (Main Floor)*

OPTIONAL | Outdoor Installation by Patrica Ningewance

Brisk walk to an outdoor installation on the waterfront by artist Patricia Ningewance. Continue to the site of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's new waterfront gallery. Go past the marina parking lot. You can't miss the cranes!

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

ARTIST PANEL | *Zaagtoon: Hide, Bead, and Fur* - Baggage Building, Eagle's Nest (Mezzanine)

An open-hearted discussion with panelists Jaymie Campbell, Delaney Keshena, and Amber Sandy. Moderated by Lisa Myers.

In Ojibwe, **zaagtoon** is a word that means "to love or treasure (something)." As many artists can relate, the panelists are connected by their love and personal relationship with traditional and non-traditional materials, the land, family, and relations including animals and beings who inspire their creativity and craft: hide-tanning (Amber), beading (Jaymie) and tufting (Delaney). This panel generously opens conversations into expressions of love and care at the heart of what we do and how we do it.

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

CLOSING - *Baggage Building, Eagle's Nest (Mezzanine)*

GIVEAWAY - Facilitated by Audrey Derooy & Leanna Marshall

A celebration of our time together. Participants are encouraged to bring an item to be given away. To participate please bring an item. This item can be made by you, it can be a pre-loved item, or it can even be materials/supplies. This is simply an act of kindness towards each other. A parting gift until we see each other again. Bamaapii - see you soon!

Audrey Derooy will close with a song.

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

OPTIONAL | *Jangles Moonlight Shopping* - Jangles Bead Store, 475 11th Ave.

A moonlight shopping experience. Jangles bead store has extended their hours for your shopping convenience.

Sun Feb 11

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Delta Buffet - *Delta Hotels by Marriott, 2240 Sleeping Giant Pkwy.*

An unofficial group breakfast at the Delta. The brunch costs \$35.

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Radical Stitch - *Thunder Bay Art Gallery, 1080 Keewatin St.*

If you are still in town, go back to spend more time with the beadwork in *Radical Stitch* and *Wall Pocket*. There's a new work to discover with each visit.



Delaney Keshena (Menomini) is a moccasin maker and fine artist currently based in Minneapolis, MN. With the body as site Keshena uses hair, skin, and glass in their practice of crafting objects that relate stories of family, nation, and contemporary Indigenous experience. Delaney is completing a two-year residency with the North House Folk School, in Grand Marais, MN, and is an Incubator Artist-in-Resident with Public Functionary.

@delaneykeshena



Jean Marshall is of Ahnishnaabe/English descent, born and raised in Thunder Bay. She is a band member of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, also known as Big Trout Lake, Treaty 9. She currently lives along the shore of Lake Superior. In 2018 she attended the Dene Nahjo Urban Hide Tanning Residency at the Banff Centre. She now is dedicated to leading and supporting hide tanning projects in her community.

@marshall.childforever



Kanina Terry is an Anishnaabe-kwe with an Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) mother and a white father. She was born and lives on her mother's traditional lands of Obishikokang (Lac Seul First Nation) in Sioux Lookout. Kanina is inspired by teachers, ancestors, bush life, Indigenous artists, and knowledge holders and is determined to reclaim knowledge and skills denied to her because of assimilation, colonialism, and residential schools.

@criesovermoosehides



Katie Longboat is a Cree and Haudenosaunee beadwork artist from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory with connections to Thunder Bay and Northern Ontario. Her beadwork embodies intricate designs, florals, contemporary materials, and bold colours. Katie is inspired to create work that is reflective of her family, the natural world, and Cree and Haudenosaunee patterns and styles. She lives in Toronto.

@katielongboat.beadwork



Leanna Marshall MSW, RSW, PCAT is a social worker who works with Indigenous communities, particularly around healing from intergenerational trauma, loss, and self-esteem. Leanna is proud to be a graduate from the inaugural 2023 Indigenized Art Therapy Program from the WHEAT Institute in Winnipeg. She is a band member of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation located in Treaty 9 in Northern Ontario. Leanna was born and raised in Thunder Bay.

@twinindianlove



Shelby Gagnon is an Anishinaabe/Cree artist from Aroland First Nation of the Wolf Clan. She is an arts educator, hide tanner, muralist, curator, and advocate for the lands and waters. She uses multi-disciplinary mediums to express and share her holistic feelings focused on land, water and all the spirits that call it their home.

@rootveggii



Shannon Gustafson (Kiiwednong Kwe) is a registered member of Whitesand First Nation, Ontario. She was raised on the Serpent River First Nation, Ontario and now resides in the city of Thunder Bay. Her artistic and creative nature stems from her childhood and inspired by powwow culture. Shannon honours her gifts everyday by working as a full-time artist with support from her family, who are also artists. She has received numerous Ontario Arts Council grants including the 2017 Hnatyshyn Foundation Reveal Indigenous Artist award.

@r_s_gustafson



Gail Bannon is a proud band member of Fort William First Nation. She has been using birchbark (wiigwaas) as an artistic medium for 15+ years, creating both traditional birchbark baskets and developing new designs. Gail's use of bark connects her to the traditions of the Anishinaabe people, learning from the land and the stories the bark tells.

@wiigwaas14



Melissa Twance is a beadwork artist from Netmizaagamig Nishinaabeg. Her beadwork designs pay homage to Northwestern Ontario and traditional Anishinaabe iconography with infusions of contemporary and pop culture aesthetics. Melissa is currently completing her PhD in Education, researching how knowledge embedded in Anishinaabe bead, quill, and hide work. She is a lecturer in the Faculty of Education at the University of Winnipeg.

@miskobenays



Audrey Derox is from Anizaatikoong (Place of Poplars) Lac Des Mille Lacs First Nation and resides in Thunder Bay. Audrey is a cultural knowledge keeper and takes to heart the responsibility of learning. She also draws from the strength of her children and family and focuses her art creations on the contributions of the Anishinaabe culture. She works with the Ontario Native Women's Association as the Land Based Cultural Coordinator.

@thetoryofamom



Lisa Myers is an independent curator, artist and an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change at York University. She is the York University Research Chair in Indigenous Art and Curatorial practice and has curated exhibitions in public galleries and artist run centres across Canada. Lisa is a member of Chimnissing, Beausoleil First Nation.

@liiiiisamy



Nico Williams ᐃᑦᑦᑦᑦ is a member of Aamjiwnaang First Nation (Anishinaabe), currently living and working in Tiohtià:ke/Montréal. In 2021, he graduated with an MFA in Sculpture from Concordia University. His multidisciplinary and often collaborative practice is centred around sculptural beadwork. Williams is active within the urban Indigenous arts community and a member of the Contemporary Geometric Beadwork research team. He is the recipient of multiple grants and awards, and his work has been shown nationally and internationally.

@odehmin



Sherry Farrell Racette (Métis/Algonquin/Irish) was born in Manitoba and is a member of Timiskaming First Nation in Quebec (unceded Algonquin territory). She is an interdisciplinary scholar with an active arts and curatorial practice. She is currently teaching in the Department of Visual Arts, Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance at the University of Regina. She is co-curator of *Radical Stitch*.

@artiststeach



Cathy Mattes is a Michif curator, writer, and art history professor based in Sprucewoods, Manitoba. Her curation, research and writing centers on dialogic and Indigenous knowledge-centered curatorial practice as strategies for care. She is co-curator of *Radical Stitch*.

@cathy.mattes



Michelle LaVallee (Anishinaabe) is Director of Indigenous Ways and Decolonization at the National Gallery of Canada. Previously, she held the position of Director of the Indigenous Art Centre at Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (2017-2022) and Curator at the MacKenzie Art Gallery (2007-2017). She is co-curator of *Radical Stitch*.

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ON BEHALF OF THE THUNDER BAY ART GALLERY:

Chi-miigwetch, a big thank you, to all our participants for sharing your time with us. You have made history as part of Thunder Bay's first beading symposium.

Chi-miigwetch to Chief Michelle Solomon and Council for their support of this beading symposium on the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation.

Chi-miigwetch to event co-organizer Jean Marshall, who had a vision for a beading symposium in Thunder Bay.

Miigwetch, Audrey DeRoy, for your welcoming and parting words, prayers, song and kindness.

Thank you, miigwetch, to our talented group of workshop leaders, our Master of Ceremonies, the *Radical Stitch* co-curators, artists, moderators, speakers, and panelists for sharing your voice, knowledge, and creativity.

A special thank you, miigwetch, to our dedicated and talented volunteers for their time, energy, and enthusiasm. We could not do this without you.

Miigwetch, Tania Johnson, for your delicious food and nourishment.

Thank you to our sponsors, Confederation College, Brook McIlroy, CEDC, the City of Thunder Bay among many others.

A heartfelt thank you and miigwetch to the Thunder Bay Art Gallery staff for bringing this event to life: Caitlyn Bird, Maeghan Chassé, Meaghan Eley, Bob Gravelle, Matthew Hills, Katy Poirier, Valin Sacchetti, Penelope Smart, and Kamila Westerback.

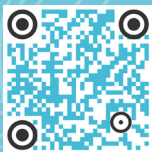
Thank you, miigwetch, Cher Chapman, for your original beadwork in our logo and Krysta Furioso for digitalization.

NOTES



MIIGWETCH! • THANK YOU!

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PROGRAM



Contact us for more info or assistance:
theag.ca | 807.577.6427 | info@theag.ca



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