MEDIA RELEASE



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Arts Commons: RBC Emerging Visual Arts Program and Media Gallery Exhibitions Share Thought-Provoking and Energizing Perspectives

CALGARY – With the reopening of Arts Commons to the public, the galleries within the building are ready to showcase the emerging and established artistic talent that our city has to offer.

Located in the eight +15 galleries of Arts Commons, <u>Indigenous Motherhood and Matriarchy</u> shares the work of sixteen Indigenous women as they express their feelings on motherhood, and how they have displayed a fierce resilience; providing strength to their communities, reclaiming and maintaining traditions, and passing on wisdom for the generations to come.



Shining a light on the issue of violence against women, <u>A Rose for Remembrance / Una Rosa Para</u> <u>Recordar</u> by artist Claudia Chagoya recognizes real victims of femicide with individual memorials created out of resin, displayed in the Ledge Gallery.

The Lightbox Studio features artist Sikapinakii, a two-spirited member of the Siksika Nation. Their piece <u>*Tsa Nitaakanistoonowawa?*</u> means "how will I recognize them?" combining the identities of femininity, and masculinity within a single question.



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The Window Galleries, located just outside the lobby of the Max Bell Theatre in Arts Commons, feature <u>Dear Everybody</u> by Anthony Russell, <u>Portraits of a Piikani Woman</u> by Itsooaakii:, and <u>Encountering the</u> <u>Divine</u> by Yamuna Flaherty.

In the Broadcast Lab, a micro-cinema gallery that displays on four monitors in the public spaces of Arts Commons, Uii Savage's <u>Deep/Fake-Post/Humyn</u> examines virtual influencers, photogrammetry, and digital doubles. Using a rendering technique that takes two-dimensional data and creates a three-dimensional file, the work reflects on alienation and hyper-real escapism within the virtual realm.

+15 Soundscape features a collaborative piece by sound artists Jessica McMann and Amy Wilson, <u>ka-kî-pêhtahk ôma mêskanaw kâ-mahkâskâk/Cuin a chluinnear ramh nan tonn?</u>, which investigates the posthuman experience through sound. Recordings taken from Wreak beach, British Columbia in the early hours of the morning have been edited to create moments of uncomfortableness and self-reflection.

"It is incredible that we're able to finally open our doors again and share the work of both the artists engaged in our RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program, as well as our media artists. It's been a long-time coming, "says Sanja Lukac, Visual and Media Arts Curator." And for those who don't feel safe venturing out, we are also continuing our virtual exhibitions online so anyone can reach out and experience these artists' work."

To see all of the exhibitions online, visit <u>artscommons.ca/learn-engage/visual-and-media-arts</u>. The current visual arts exhibitions will be available for viewing until January 23, 2022 and the media galleries will be available for viewing until early December 2021. The +15 galleries exhibition is available for viewing until February 25, 2022.

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For media inquiries or more information contact: Alex Bonyun, Communications Manager 403-294-7429 <u>abonyun@artscommons.ca</u>

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