

# I do not have my words: Joi Arcand, Catherine Blackburn and Audrey Dreaver

Curated and organized by the Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery with funding assistance from the City of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan Arts Board, SaskCulture, Saskatchewan Lotteries, and the Canada Council for the Arts

The exhibition, *I do not have my words*, features printmaking, photography, sculpture, and beaded, mixed media works by Indigenous, Saskatchewan artists, Joi Arcand, Catherine Blackburn and Audrey Dreaver. Each artist's body of works explore language loss and considers how language is connected to one's cultural identity.

Joi Arcand explores the interruption of intergenerational language-learning, as a result of the residential school system and other colonial attempts to remove Indigenous culture, through the revitalization of the Cree language. Emphasizing the discontinuation of the language within Arcand's own family by rendering it hyper-visible in location and material, the work further questions how the public presence of language is connected to acknowledging Indigenous peoples. **Arcand** is a photo-based artist from Muskeg Lake Cree Nation in central Saskatchewan (Treaty 6 Territory) who is currently based in Ottawa, Ontario. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Saskatchewan in 2005, and has exhibited across Canada, the United States and Europe. In 2006 she co-founded The Red Shift Gallery, a contemporary Indigenous art gallery in Saskatoon. In 2012, she created *kimiwan* 'zine, a magazine for Indigenous artists and writers.



T. Arcand, *Here on Future Earth: Young's Garage*, photographic print 2009, 29.3 x 44.6 cm, Saskatchewan Arts Board, Permanent Collection – 2017-108



Catherine Blackburn, *me*, beads, 24k gold-plated beads, pins, gel photo transfer, 2017, 20.9 x 17.1 cm, Collection of the artist

Catherine Blackburn's art practice is informed by her Dene and European ancestry, considering Canada's colonial past through her personal relationships and life experiences. The pieces in, *I do not have my words*, use media, traditional materials, like beading, and artistic processes that connect to the various themes and histories Blackburn explores in the work, including the Dene language. Blackburn holds a BFA Honours from the University of Saskatchewan and is based in the village of Leask, Saskatchewan. An artist of mixed Dene and European heritage, her work addresses contemporary concepts and personal experiences through traditional media. Blackburn has taught art at the English River and Mistawaskis First Nation Culture Camps, and has exhibited throughout Saskatchewan, and in Toronto and Taichung, Taiwan. Her work is in the holdings of the Mann Art Gallery, Prince Albert and in private collections in

Canada and Taiwan. Blackburn is represented by Slate Fine Art Gallery in Regina and Alcheringa Gallery in Victoria, BC.



**Audrey Dreaver, *No More English Here***, UV, silkscreen on paper, 2015, 56.5 x 76.2 cm, Collection of the artist

Audrey Dreaver's prints document her research into her family's history of Cree language loss and consider how this loss has impacted her cultural identity as a Cree woman. In this exploration, Dreaver poses questions: *How did my family come to lose our language? Is your language who you are? Does my inability to speak my language mean that I am less Cree?* The artist invites viewers to engage in her exploration and consider if language loss affects identity by breaking continuity with one's past and culture. Dreaver is nēhiyawak (Plains Cree) and grew up in Prince Albert; her family comes from the Mistawasis and Ahtahkakoop Cree Nations of Saskatchewan. Dreaver received her MFA in painting from the University of Regina (2015), her BFA in painting, printmaking, and small metal sculpture, and her BA in Museum Studies in curating and Native art history from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Since returning to Canada in 2008 Dreaver has worked as an independent consultant and curator focusing on art instruction, Aboriginal art history, and exhibition development.

## Tour Schedule

- **September 1 to 23, 2019 at the Route 11 Arts Cooperative**
- October 1 to November 23, 2019 at the Last Mountain Lake Cultural Centre
- January 1 to 23, 2020 at the Mistasinik Place
- February 1 to 23, 2020 at the Grand Coteau Heritage and Cultural Centre
- March 1 to April 23, 2020 at the Community pARTners Gallery
- May 1 to 23, 2020 at the Sherven-Smith Art Gallery
- June 1 to 23, 2020 at the Central Park Library/Arts Centre
- September 1 to October 23, 2020 at the Chapel Gallery
- November 1 to 23, 2020 at the Tisdale Community Library
- February 1 to 23, 2021 at the John V. Hicks Gallery at the Prince Albert Arts Centre
- April 1 to 23, 2021 at the Gallery Works and the Third Dimension
- January 1, February 23, 2022 at the Station Arts Centre, Rosthern
- April 1 to May 23, 2022 at the Allie Griffin Art Gallery

## Touring Details

This exhibition is toured through **Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Councils (OSAC)** which organizes travelling exhibitions tour up to 24 communities for 3 years. Exhibitions are developed and curated from submissions to the annual call for proposals, adjudications held throughout the province, public and corporate collections, and partnering institutions. For more information contact @ 1-306-586-1250