

## MACLAREN**ART**CENTRE, BARRIE

### CANADA 150th YOUTH INITIATIVE: CONTEMPORARY INDIGENOUS ART

For immediate release, February 8, 2017

The MacLaren Art Centre in Barrie is pleased to announce a special youth initiative made possible by a grant from the *Community Fund for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>*. In partnership with the Barrie Native Friendship Centre and Beausoleil First Nation Springwater Park, the MacLaren Art Centre will offer an innovative youth programme this spring focusing on contemporary Indigenous art.



The objectives of this special initiative are to foster the artistic development of youth in Simcoe County and to nurture their understanding of contemporary Indigenous visual culture through discussions, workshops and exhibition programming.

Led by professional Indigenous artists and curators from Ontario, this free six-week series of visual arts workshops will introduce regional youth to Indigenous values, history, visual and popular culture, myths and legends and other narratives, visual signs and symbols, cultural appropriation and self-definition, and the shaping of contemporary Indigenous art histories. The contributors are: **William Kingfisher** (Chippewas of Rama First Nation Reserve), Ph.D. candidate in Indigenous Studies at Trent University and curator of *Arthur Shilling: The Final Works*; **Gerald McMaster** (Plains Cree and Blackfoot), curator, author, artist and educator, Toronto; **Lisa Myers** (Anishinaabe from Beausoleil First Nation and the Georgian Bay region), artist, curator and faculty at York University, Toronto/Port Severn; Barrie artist **Clayton Samuel King** (Potawatomi descent, Beausoleil First Nation) who works in painting, photography, sculpture and traditional Indigenous crafts; artist **Luke Parnell** (Haida and Nisga'a heritage) who, through the use of traditional techniques from the Northwest Coast, investigates contemporary social issues, Toronto; and artist **Mary Anne Barkhouse** (Nimkish band, Kwakiutl First Nation), whose practice examines Indigenous culture through animal imagery, Minden.

Open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth ages 14 to 18, this weekly series begins Saturday, March 25, 2017. From 10 am to 12 pm, youth will be engaged in discussion with each contributor, followed by a hands-on visual arts workshop from 1 to 3 pm in the MacLaren's sunlit Education Centre. The guest curators and artists will also be invited to engage with the youth and their families on Saturday afternoons at the Gallery from 3 to 4 pm to include

exhibition and collection tours.

On view at the MacLaren this spring are a series of shows featuring work by Indigenous artists including **Arthur Shilling: The Final Works** (March 23 to June 25), a major exhibition of figurative paintings by this Anishinaabe artist (Rama, Ontario, 1941-1986) and **Call to Action #83** (May 25 to June 25), featuring recent artwork by eight Indigenous and eight non-Indigenous regional artists. Key works from the Gallery's collection by Indigenous artists **Duane Linklater, Jane Ash Poitras** and **Norval Morrisseau** will also be view. Furthermore, youth will have an opportunity to experience works in the MacLaren's collection spaces by artists **Robert Houle, Rita Letendre, Carl Beam, Jeff Thomas** and others.

To help ensure lasting impact, participating Indigenous youth will be encouraged to sit on the MacLaren's Youth Advisory Council. Other outcomes include a series of hands-on workshops informed by this project and developed for the MacLaren studio programme in the schools, which reaches over 6,000 students each year, and an educational kit on contemporary Canadian Indigenous art with curriculum links to visual art, history and social studies. As Executive Director Carolyn Bell Farrell comments, "By marking Canada's 150th celebrations in this way, we are confident this initiative will leave a significant and lasting legacy of understanding, community and inclusivity. We are indebted to the Barrie Community Foundation for making this project possible."

The MacLaren Art Centre gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Community Fund for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>. Le MacLaren Art Centre remercie le Fonds communautaire pour le 150e anniversaire du Canada pour son soutien au projet.



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Canada

Image credits: MacLaren Youth Workshop led by contemporary Indigenous artist Melissa General, 2016 (left); Tour of *past now* at the MacLaren by contemporary Indigenous artist Luke Parnell, 2011.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **About the MacLaren Art Centre**

The MacLaren Art Centre is the major public art gallery in central Ontario serving the residents of Barrie, the County of Simcoe and the surrounding area. The Gallery has a permanent collection of over 27,000 works of art and presents a year-round programme of innovative world-class exhibitions, education activities and special events.

### **Acknowledgements**

The MacLaren Art Centre gratefully acknowledges the support of its Members, Patrons, Donors, Sponsors, Partners, the City of Barrie, the Ontario Arts Council, the Government of

Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Canada Council for the Arts and Canadian Heritage.

**Gallery Location**

37 Mulcaster Street, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 3M2, 705-721-9696 [www.maclarenart.com](http://www.maclarenart.com)

From Toronto: From highway 400 north, 90 km north of Toronto, take the Dunlop Street East exit to Mulcaster Street and turn left. The MacLaren is one block north on the right hand at the intersection of Collier Street and Mulcaster Street.

**Gallery Admission**

Suggested admission \$5

**Gallery Hours**

Monday to Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Wednesday 10:00 am to 7:00pm

Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Closed Statutory Holidays. Open Family Day, February 20, 2017, noon to 4 pm.

Wheelchair accessible

