

BRINGS TO LIGHT

a solo exhibition by
Jaimie Isaac



November 24, 2022 - February 17, 2023

The exhibition *Brings to Light* gathers together mixed media artworks, made between 2013 and 2022, that incorporate archives, photography, light and story. My family on my mother's side are survivors and intergenerational survivors that live with the legacy of the Residential School System (IRSS), attending the Fort Alexander Residential School (FARS) which was located in Sagkeeng First Nation on Treaty One Territory. These colonial structures dehumanized and devalued Indigenous knowledge systems and restricted rich cultural languages and traditions. I have listened to my family's memories and experiences of their time at residential school, and know how communities are impacted with intergenerational trauma today. My family encouraged me to bring to light these histories to reflect and pay respect to the survivors, those that never came home, and those still struggling.

Brings to Light is a personal story of intergenerational Indigenous experiences of trauma, memory, resiliency and reclamation. The light boxes at the back of the gallery (entitled *My Inheritance*) are earlier works conceived and constructed at a residency called "Reconsidering Reconciliation". The Fort Alexander school model was completed in 2014, and I reworked it for this exhibition to tell my grandmother's story by casting light and her words from within the school model. *Knowledge As Territory: 4 Ways* is an installation of four circular knowledge panels that express an urgency for knowledge repatriation and reclamation to access ways of knowing and being, language, epistemologies, and cosmologies within Anishinaabe culture. The knowledge panels move by magnetic propulsion provoked by participation, evoking a continuum through action and patience. *Restitution, Repatriation* is a chalkboard and school desk installation that encourages learning Anishinaabemowin through exploring the dictionary and through the significance of repetition. I hope *Brings to Light* will generate dialogue around kin, community, and knowledge of intergenerational involvement.

Jaimie Isaac

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jaimie Isaac is an interdisciplinary artist and curator, a member of Sagkeeng First Nation in Treaty 1 Territory, and is of mixed heritage (Anishinaabe and British descent). She holds an undergraduate degree in Art History from The University of Winnipeg and a Masters of Arts degree from the University of British Columbia. Isaac co-founded The Ephemerals, a female Indigenous artist collective, which was long-listed for the Sobey Art Award in 2017 and 2019. In collaboration with other artists and independently, Isaac has exhibited and presented installations, performances and moving image works nationally and internationally. Her most recent public artwork is the sculpture, *The Eighth and Final Fire*, launched at the Forks in December of 2021. Isaac is the Chief Curator at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and is dedicated to making space for womxn, BIPOC, LGBTQ2S+ voices and decolonizing art and cultural institutions. Prior to this position, she served as the Curator of Indigenous and Contemporary Arts at the Winnipeg Art Gallery for more than six years. Isaac has published writing in numerous exhibition catalogues, art magazines and academic journals. She is an honouree for Leaders of Tomorrow from the Manitoba Museum 50th Tribute Awards 2020, CBC Future 40 Finalist 2020, and the Canadian Museums Association recipient for an outstanding achievement award in exhibitions category with the Boarder X exhibition, 2021.

LIST OF WORKS

Artworks are listed in order of their appearance, beginning with the piece at the northeast corner and continuing clockwise around the gallery. Dimensions are in centimetres and listed as height x width x depth.

Knowledge As Territory: 4 Ways, 2022, mixed media on birch, hardware, 122 h x 488 w.

My Inheritance, 2013, found wood, archival transparencies on acrylic slides, hardware, 68 h x 254 w x 12 d.

Fort Alexander School, 2014, painted laser cut wood sculpture, light, audio recording, 30.5 h x 122 w x 61 d.

Restitution Repatriation, 2022, school desk, chalkboard, varied dimensions.

GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Friday between 12:00 and 4:00 pm from November 25, 2022 – February 17, 2023 (closed December 23 to January 6).

AFFILIATED EVENTS

Reception: November 24, 2022, 4:00 – 6:00 pm at Gallery 1Co3

Exhibition Tour with Jaimie Isaac: January 18, 2023 at 2:30 pm in Gallery 1Co3

Talks by Treaty Relations Commission Speakers: date and time TBC

Film Screening, Conversation, Feast & Publication Launch: February 16, 2023 at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Premiere screening of the feature film *Mino Pimatisiwin wiisiniwin – Living the Good Life Food*, followed by a conversation with Mary Courchene, Dawn Isaac, Elaine Isaac, and Jaimie Isaac, and a feast. Launch of exhibit publication, featuring texts by Lorena Fontaine, Dawn Isaac and Elaine Isaac, and Jaimie Isaac. Presented in partnership with the Winnipeg Art Gallery and the Decolonizing Lens.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Gallery 1Co3 is on Treaty 1 Territory, the heartland of the Métis people the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Ininew, Anishinew, Dakota and Dene peoples, and. Our water is sourced from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation.

We express our utmost gratitude to Jaimie Isaac for trusting Gallery 1Co3 to host this important, powerful and moving exhibition. We are deeply thankful to Elder Mary Courchene, Elaine Isaac and Dawn Isaac for their integral roles in this project and for sharing their wisdom and their experiences through the exhibition, publication and affiliated programming. We wish to thank Dr. Lorena Fontaine for agreeing to write an essay for the forthcoming exhibit publication and for her guidance and support. We are grateful, too, to Angeline Nelson and to all of the staff of the Aboriginal Student Services Centre for their support. We especially wish to extend appreciation to Elder Sharon Pelletier for her time and teachings. We are grateful to Jaimie Isaac, Elder Pelletier, Taylor Bear and Megan Lindell for smudging the gallery. Special appreciation to carpenter Brian Wait, painter April Keenan and installation technician Brianna Wentz and technical advisor Glen Johnson for their care and contributions to the exhibition, and to curatorial practicum intern Wendy Alakpodia and all gallery attendants and art educators. Thank you to Chris Fehr and Peter Isaac for technical preatorial assistance and support. Gallery 1Co3 acknowledges financial assistance for *Brings to Light* from the Manitoba Arts Council. We are also grateful to program partners the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, the Winnipeg Art Gallery and the Decolonizing Lens.

Gallery 1Co3

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