



## Education Program for *Sovereign Intimacies* exhibition



***Sovereign Intimacies*** is a group exhibition that was co-presented by Gallery 1C03 and Plug In Institute of Contemporary Art with support from Video Pool Media Arts Centre, September 26 - December 20, 2020. Through artworks displayed at Plug In's gallery and through online talks, video screenings, performances and poetry readings, ***Sovereign Intimacies*** explored themes of cultural and community exchange between Indigenous artists and artists from the diaspora, more specifically artists who are First Nations, Inuit and Métis collaborating with artists living in what is currently called Canada who came to this land and are not part of the settler/colonial history of the country.

This group show consists of pairings of artists, as well as individuals, whose work is based on process and relationship building, and for those whose work is invested in topics of friendship and intimacy, who are working to build a collective vision of a sovereign future.

By studying the creations of these artists and examining the relationships that the artworks point to, we can learn important aspects of building community and friendship by sharing and respecting diverse cultural practices, languages and ways of knowing.

Gallery 1C03 has developed a **digital education package** related to *Sovereign Intimacies* that will give teachers the tools to **explore these themes with students as relevant to Social Studies, ELA and Art curricula**. The package includes:

- **slide show** of artworks presented in the gallery;
- document with **context for artworks** in slide show and **image descriptions** for accessibility;
- **essay by exhibit curators**;
- **two different lesson plans** for early years and for middle/senior years that include:
  - targeted learning outcomes across multiple subject fields: Social Studies, ELA, Art;
  - essential questions & enduring understandings;
  - instructions to activate, acquire, apply and extend the learning experience
- **illustrated step by step creative art activity responses & response examples**

## **Lesson A: Celebrating Identity, Friendship and Gift Giving**

*For Early Years (Grades 1 - 4)*

Students will focus on the work *Gift – 遠足 (Ensoku) - Away* by Japanese-Canadian artist Ayumi Goto and Tahltan artist Peter Morin. They will see how these artists have exchanged different types of gifts that celebrate and reflect their identities and their friendship with one another. They will learn how identity is shown on our bodies and how we can celebrate our different identities. They will also learn that gift giving helps strengthen bonds with others. One of the gifts that Ayumi and Peter exchanged is a doll. Students will decorate a paper doll template in a manner that reflects their identity and gift it to someone whose bond they want to strengthen.

## **Lesson B: Weaving Community, Culture & Language**

*For Middle & Senior Years (Grade: 4 - 12)*

Students will focus on the sculptural installation *weaver girl limns two rainbows* by iris yirei hu and the mural painting *Heart Berry Kief* by artists Annie Beach and Hassaan Ashraf. They will learn how these artists assert the importance of their culture in their work, doing so in partnership with artists across different cultures. The result is a weaving together that honours one another's cultures, traditions and languages. Students can choose to create a paper weaving to represent the communities they belong and contribute to OR a digital language collage to show their identities and languages.

**To receive the package of digital education materials, please email Gallery 1C03 Director/Curator Jennifer Gibson – [j.gibson@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:j.gibson@uwinnipeg.ca).**

**Images, left to right:** *Gift – 遠足 (Ensoku) - Away* by Ayumi Goto and Peter Morin, 2020, mixed media installation, approx.. 3 feet x 3 feet; *Heart Berry Kief* by Hassaan Ashraf and Annie Beach, 2020, paint, stickers and glitter on wood, approx. 12 feet high x 10 feet wide. Photos: Marco Muller.