



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WINNIPEG

gallery 1C03

Digital Education Program for *When Raven Became Spider* exhibition



When Raven Became Spider is a touring exhibit that was organized and circulated by Dunlop Art Gallery and shown at The University of Winnipeg's Gallery 1C03 in the fall of 2019. It features artworks by 6 contemporary Indigenous artists from across Turtle Island who **combine superhero comic book images with figures and images drawn from traditional and contemporary Indigenous stories**. The show takes its name from exhibiting artist Sonny Assu's works depicting Raven the Trickster transforming into Spiderman in order to maintain visibility.

Exhibit curator Leena Minifie (Gitxaala) notes that the supernatural is part of everyday life for Indigenous peoples across nations. "Traditional stories," she writes, "highlight figures with super-heroic traits who maintain their complexity, while contemporary comic-book superheroes tend to be simply characterized as good or evil. The complex super-heroic beings of Indigenous stories imply the possibility of self-transformation for individuals and communities alike. Bringing these figures into a contemporary context is a testimony to their continued importance and to the resilience and continued existence of Indigenous people today."

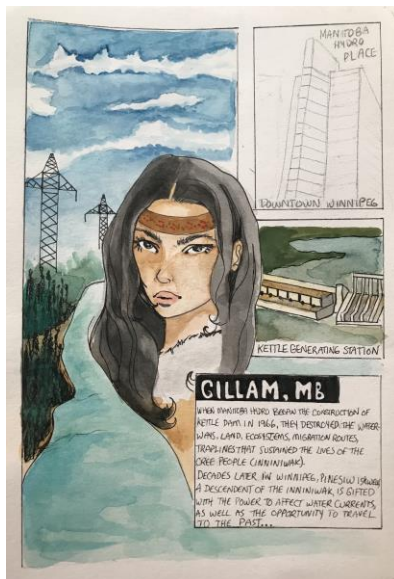
Gallery 1C03 has developed a **digital education package** related to *When Raven Became Spider* that will help students learn to **appreciate and honour Indigenous resilience** which is shown through the stories that the artists in this exhibition tell in their artworks about the past, the present and the future. Learners explore their own voices **to transform their identities, tell their personal narratives, and critically view their own and others' texts and artworks**.

By engaging with these works and responding creatively, students will be encouraged to **imagine ways they can empower and transform themselves and their communities**.

This **digital education package** is appropriate and can be adapted for use by students in **grades 4-12** and is relevant to **Social Studies, ELA and Art curricula**.

It includes:

- **slide show** of artworks presented in the gallery;
- document with **context for artworks** in slide show and **image descriptions** for accessibility;
- Dunlop Art Gallery e-publication with **essay by exhibit curator** and additional images by exhibiting artists;
- **lesson plan** with instructions to **LOOK, KNOW, WONDER, RESPOND**
- **two-part creative art activity response instructions and examples:**
 - **students will create a Superhero trading card** inspired by exhibiting artist Joi T. Arcand's *The Beautiful NDN SuperMaidens™ Trading Cards*
 - **students will create a comic strip about their superhero**



Images at top, left to right: *Neckbone Wonder Woman*, part of Joi T. Arcand's *The Beautiful NDN SuperMaidens™ Trading Cards*, 2016, mixed media; *When Raven Became Spider, Embrace* by Sonny Assu, 2003, akoya shell buttons, melton wool, synthetic gabardine, white cotton jogging fleece. Photos courtesy Dunlop Art Gallery.

Image at left: Comic strip page "Pinesiw Iskwew" by Gallery 1C03 art educator Marie-Anne Redhead, 2021, watercolour, ink, pencil.

To receive the package of digital education materials, please email Gallery 1C03 Director/Curator Jennifer Gibson – j.gibson@uwinnipeg.ca.