



**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Colleen Fitzpatrick, Executive Director, Rotary Centre for the Arts  
Email: [director@rotarycentreforthearts.com](mailto:director@rotarycentreforthearts.com)  
Cell: 519-501-9673

iArt Manager & Indigenous Tourism Specialist  
[indigenous@totabc.com](mailto:indigenous@totabc.com)  
Cell: 250-408-9124

Tania Willard, Assistant Professor, Creative and Critical Studies, Visual Arts, UBCO  
[tania.willard@ubc.ca](mailto:tania.willard@ubc.ca)  
Cell: 250-299-5835

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## **Rotary Centre for the Arts, TOTA and the UBCO Indigenous Art Intensive showcase outdoor iArt Gallery in Kelowna’s Cultural District**

**(Kelowna, B.C.)** - The Rotary Centre for the Arts together with TOTA (Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association) and UBCO’s Indigenous Art Intensive program present a screening of video works in the mobile iArt gallery outside the RCA. The digital art exhibit, curated by Tania Willard of UBCO, inspires people to visit the gallery and learn more about Indigenous contemporary art.

The iArt Gallery is a mobile Indigenous gallery, the exhibition *Being out on the Land: Feeds, Streams, and Captures* presents a series of projected video works as an installation inside. The iArt gallery also has a stage that can accommodate small-scale dance and musical performances. The detailing of the trailer is based on the Osoyoos Cultural Centre which was created using the technique of rammed earth. This process entails the layering of cement combined with local soils and minerals to create the beautiful colour variation.

Colleen Fitzpatrick, Executive Director, Rotary Centre for the Arts, comments, “This is the RCA’s third new outdoor art exhibit added in the past year for socially distanced and easy access to the arts, helping us better appreciate ourselves as a community and enriches us culturally. We are grateful to showcase these works from indigenous artists across Turtle Island and invite the Okanagan community to come in person to experience these important artworks and the stories they tell.”

The iArt Manager & Indigenous Tourism Specialist, says, “Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA) in partnership with Indigenous Tourism British Columbia, is working with the Rotary Centre for the Arts to introduce the Indigenous Artisan Trails Mobile art gallery (iArt) to showcase Indigenous artisans from outside the Thompson/Okanagan region.”

Due to the pandemic, the iArt Gallery has not been able to visit local communities. Partnering with the UBCO Indigenous Art Intensive, the iArt Gallery will show Indigenous artists from across Turtle Island. Tania Willard, Assistant Professor, Visual Arts, Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies, UBCO adds, “Three Indigenous artist’s video works will screen inside a unique mobile gallery, parked out front of the Rotary Centre for the Arts this spring and summer. The iArt Gallery presents works by noted artists Maureen Gruben (Inuvialuk), Christine Howard Sandoval (Obispeño Chumash and Hispanic) and Krista Belle Stewart (Syilx).”

The exhibit is located in front of the Rotary Centre for the Arts from May 19th to early July and downtown Kelowna on Bernard Avenue from July to August 20th. The iArt gallery hours are Wednesday – Friday from 12 – 7 PM and Saturdays and Sundays from 11 AM – 6 PM.

The Rotary Centre for the Arts Galleria will also showcase Indigenous youth and emerging artists curated by BFA student and artist Maura Tamez.

### **About the Featured Exhibitions**

**Exhibition title:** *Being Out On the Land: Feeds, Streams and Captures*

In this series of video works by artists Maureen Gruben, Krista Belle Stewart, and Christine Howard the artists trace out pathways, trails, and positions of engaging with the Indigeneity of land.

In **Christine Howard Sandoval’s video *Live Stream*** the act of following a walking path of previous streams and water bodies is a tool of revealing the Indigenous landscape beneath the settler development on the surface of the site of the Acequia Madre (Taos, NM).

**Krista Belle Stewart’s video work, *Potato Garden’s Band*** screened as a video feed from 2018 which took place between Stewart’s Spaxomin (Douglas Lake, BC) land, and the 221A Gallery in Vancouver BC. Transmitting a live feed of her land from her phone, of a speaker system playing her great-grandmother's recording, on her ancestral land, her performance indicated a relationality between her family community and land.

In ***Stitching My Landscape* Maureen Gruben’s** significant land work and experimental video the artist drills hundreds of ice holes with a manual ice auger creating multiple points that are then stitched together with red broadcloth over an expanse of frozen sea ice. Over 300 metres of bright red broadcloth in sharp contrast to the snowy landscape in and around Tuktoyaktuk NWT and the Ibuyuq Pingo zig-zag across the ice and snow.

### **About Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA)**

The Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA) is a not-for-profit society governed by the BC Societies Act. We are an industry-led organization, governed by an elected Board of Directors, who represent and support business and community tourism interests throughout the Thompson Okanagan region. We are one of five regional tourism organizations in the province of British Columbia that work under the Super, Natural British Columbia brand as an official representative of Destination British Columbia, and whose mandate includes destination development and marketing.

### **About UBC Okanagan’s Indigenous Art Intensive**

UBC Okanagan’s Indigenous Art Intensive offers an educational series of courses, lectures, exhibitions, events that focus on contemporary Indigenous art as research. It features a series of world-renowned

Kelowna Visual and Performing Arts Centre Society 421 Cawston Avenue, Kelowna, BC V1Y 6Z1 p: (250) 717-5304 f: (250) 717-5314

info@rotarycentreforthearts.com www.RotaryCentrefortheArts.com

speakers, a variety of related undergraduate and graduate credit courses, and a group of resident artists who will be working to create a new body of work. The 2021 Intensive broadly engages the theme Site/ation, connecting to place through Indigenous territoriality, being grounded in land, voice, and language, reconnecting to/nurturing traditions, and beyond.

### **About the Rotary Centre for the Arts (RCA)**

Located in the heart of Kelowna's Cultural District, the [Rotary Centre for the Arts](#) is a multidisciplinary visual and performing arts centre. The RCA continually strives to improve the economic, cultural, and social quality of life in the community by fostering participation in, and appreciation of the arts. As a world-class venue celebrating creative expression through diverse art forms and disciplines, the Rotary Centre for the Arts is a unique City of Kelowna facility in which individuals of all ages and backgrounds come together to share in the excitement of strengthening art and culture in the Okanagan. The Rotary Centre for the Arts respectfully acknowledges that it is located on the unceded, traditional territory of the syilx (Okanagan) people.