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Rotary Centre for the Arts features Indigenous Youth and Young Adults Art Exhibition *Shi kée*

(Kelowna, B.C.) - *Shi kée*, curated by Maura Tamez, is currently showing in the Rotary Centre for the Arts (RCA) Galleria in Kelowna's Cultural District. This exhibition of emerging Indigenous youth artists presented by the [UBC Okanagan Indigenous Art Intensive](#) and the Rotary Centre for the Arts.

Community and Educational Programming Specialist Andrew Stauffer says, "We're thrilled to feature emerging Indigenous youth artists in our gallery with the goal of expanding the public conception of what contemporary Indigenous art is and can be." Third-year BFA student and curator of *Shi kée*, Maura Tamez, comments, "I am inspired by what Indigenous youth are doing right now. Their everyday making and being process inspire me, and I want to share this with a broader audience to inspire us when we most need to feel hope for our future and the Earth. By bringing these works together in conversation with each other, I also extend these makings and the conversations into the Galleria at the Rotary Centre for the Arts. We selected works that range from painting, collage, textiles, digital media, and current traditional practices."

From the Curator

The exhibition title, *Shi kée* (my family relatives, Jicarilla & Plains Apache), honours the kinship between communities that Tamez is a part of. As a guest on Sqilxw Syilx territory for the past 11 years, Tamez grew close to the community and developed relationships with Sqilxw Syilx peoples and urban Indigenous peoples in Kelowna, Vernon, and Hope. She selected work representing what she witnessed and pieces that strengthen kinship relationship building where she lived in the N'sis'ooloxw creek community.



This exhibit honours those matrilineal roots of Sqilxw of Nk'mapłqs, and Ndé Kónitsaąíígokíyaa peoples who originally trekked from northern Dene communities around Great Bear Lake, Great Slave Lake, from what is today north Alberta, and Saskatchewan and visited Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island. This show honours Tamez's deep respect for traditional Sqilxw Syilx matrilineal knowledge keepers who have taught ancestral oral histories about my family's ancestral kinship connections to place and belonging through the migrations of Dene peoples who became immersed within the broader Salishan world.

Shi kéé mounted in the RCA's Alex Fong Galleria accompanies [*Being Out On the Land: Feeds, Streams, and Captures*](#) in the mobile iArt Gallery parked outside of the RCA building. Both exhibitions are free and open to the public. Rotary Centre for the Arts is open 9 am to 9 pm and on weekends from 10 am to 4 pm. The mobile iArt Gallery is open Wednesday to Friday from 11 am to 7 pm and on weekends from 11 am to 4 pm.

About the Artists

Florence Fred

Way! incá kń Yilmíx^wm. isńsáma?sk^wist Florence Fred.

Florence Fred's father is Syilx, and her mom is Shuswap. Florence is a member of the Okanagan Nation. She works with mixed media and does a variety of traditional crafts and art, spanning from cedar bark to buckskin and tipis. Being an advanced seamstress as well as a crafter allows her to express herself in a variety of creative and unique ways, these shine in my ribbon skirts and hand-sewn buckskin jackets, moccasins, and vests. She is on a journey to reclaim her language and pick up all the traditional knowledge along the way.

Ashleigh Giffen

Ashleigh Giffen is a 23-year-old Oji-Cree artist. She is a multi-disciplinary artist exploring dream state, realm travel, and fragmented histories through lenses of critical Indigeneity and discouraging genre. Her first play, *Kamwatan Nipe* (Quiet Water) held its first reading at the Arts Club theatre company, and she is currently in the process of a full-length commission at the Arts Club writing its duo project. She was the 2nd place winner of the 2019 Canadian Arts and Stories writing contest, as well as 2019 Writing in the Margins poetry winner in Briarpatch magazine. She also is the 2nd place winner in the 2020 Room magazine poetry contest. The stop motion film, *Pesowan*, created in collaboration with Maura Tamez, was featured in the Lake Country Art Gallery for two exhibits this last summer season and was also featured at the Kelowna Art Gallery.



Latsistaw^Iye Logan John

Latsistaw^Iye Logan John is eight years old and an Onyote'aka and Sto:lo digital media artist who enjoys creating on Minecraft and Doodle Art Applications. Logan created this series of works titled Nether Stars independently from his imagination with the intent to be creative and have fun. In Logan's work, the structure is inspired by its core, the "Nether Star," and is one of the most challenging materials to get in Minecraft. For these works, the main idea is the Nether which is a different dimension that seems like its sole purpose is to burn everything in its path.

Janjanwanbedaka Louis

Janjanwanbedaka Louis is Okanagan/Blackfoot and a member of the Okanagan Indian Band. During early Covid, he started making head roaches and has sent roaches to many places across Canada and the United States. What inspires Louis the most is the endless combinations and possibilities, friends and connections he makes with the hope to attend a pow wow and see someone dance wearing what he has made.

Coralee Miller

Coralee Miller is an Okanagan/ Syilx woman and a member of the Westbank First Nation. She is of mixed heritage but grew up surrounded by my Okanagan family and community within the IR#9 reserve. She loves to paint, draw, and sculpt and has completed her BFA at UBCO. She is inspired by oral stories and how they carry in them the moral lessons and values that are still incredibly relevant today. She uses art as a way of having that conversation of culture and self-identity and where I fit in amongst it all.

About Maura Tamez, Curator

Maura Tamez is an enrolled member of the Lipan Apache Band of Texas (the broader Dene peoples in Canada, U.S., Mexico). Maura currently lives in the unceded Okanagan territory of the Syilx peoples. She lives with her family on the Okanagan Indian Band #1 reserve near Vernon, BC, amongst the Sqilxw families of Nsis'soolwx (Dry Creek). Currently, she is in her fourth year of the BFA program (graduating 2022), majoring in Visual Arts at the University of British Columbia-Okanagan campus. Tamez has exhibited work at the Alternator Centre for Contemporary Art, Lake Country Art Gallery, OKT Law Offices in Toronto, Kelowna Art Gallery and the Terrain Gallery in Spokane, Washington. She actively works to strengthen her practice in interdisciplinary work, and her art draws on personal themes of belonging, identity, place, borders, displacement, loss, and history. Tamez is a recipient of the 2020 Indigenous Arts Scholarship offered by the First Peoples Cultural Council and the British Columbia Arts Council.



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About the Rotary Centre for the Arts

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.