

Pedagogical Perspectives on Indigenous Art and Design Education: The Historical and the Contemporary

Faculty Conversation with Nigig Visiting Artist in Residence, Barry Ace
Monday, January 29th – 1:30 to 3:00 – Room 512, 113 McCaul St.

Presented by the Indigenous Visual Culture Program and the Faculty & Curriculum Development Centre at OCAD U.



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[Barry Ace](#) is a practicing visual artist who currently lives in Ottawa. He is a band member of M'Chigeeng First Nation, Manitoulin Island, Ontario. His mixed-media paintings and assemblage textile works explore various aspects of cultural continuity and the confluence of the historical and contemporary and have recently been shown at the ROM, AGO, the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the National Gallery of Canada, and Onsite Gallery

Like his work, Barry's learning and teaching is a confluence of the historical and the contemporary. Barry describes his grandmother, mother and aunt as his university, where he learned cultural art forms including split-ash basket weaving, beading and regalia making. As he progressed as a maker, Barry apprenticed in basket weaving under Annie Owl-McGregor, his great-aunt. He later attended Laurentian University for his undergraduate studies and Carleton University for his graduate studies, and focused his Master's research paper on Annie Owl-McGregor's splint-ash basketry entitled *Kokiibinaagan: Symbols of Cultural Continuity*, published in *Celebration of Indigenous Thought and Expression*, Lake Superior State University Press, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan (1995). Barry also taught for two years with the Department of Indigenous Studies, University of Sudbury, a federated college of Laurentian University.

This discussion will start with some images, stories and reflections focusing on Barry's educational experiences as an Anishinaabe artist whose work can be seen in powwows, museums, contemporary galleries and fashion runways. Following this, we will engage in open conversation about pedagogical practices in and around Indigenous cultural art forms. You are invited to join the discussion, bringing your own experiences of teaching and learning as an art and design educator.

Please contact Travis Freeman with any questions – tfreeman@ocadu.ca

