

Gardiner Museum

PRESS RELEASE

Art Students Respond to Kent Monkman's Powerful Installation at the Gardiner

Lobby exhibition to feature work created in collaboration with artists from the Institute of American Indian Arts

For the final week of the acclaimed exhibition *Kent Monkman: The Rise and Fall of Civilization*, the Gardiner Museum will mount a lobby display of works by students in the Sheridan College Ceramics Program and in the Bead & Read Group and Indigenous Visual Culture Program at OCAD University.

Inspired by Kent Monkman's large-scale diorama highlighting the decimation of the North American bison population, the lobby installation, entitled *Reflections on Culture and Identity*, was created in collaboration with two artists from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Sante Fe, New Mexico—Joanna Bigfeather and Jim Rivera. Funded by the US Consulate of Toronto, Bigfeather and Rivera led workshops where students were able to explore the commonalities and differences between Indigenous visual arts practices in Canada and the United States. The results reflect a rich exploration of identity, shared history, and artistic expression.

"Collaboration and cultural exchange are valuable tools to address difficult or traumatic portions of our collective history," said Kelvin Browne, CEO and Executive Director of the Gardiner Museum. "The power of an exhibition like *Kent Monkman: The Rise and Fall of Civilization* lies in its ability to raise important questions about our past and present, and inspire dialogue among visitors, critics, and the next generation of artists."

Reflections on Culture and Identity will be on display in the lobby from January 5 to 12, 2016. *Kent Monkman: The Rise and Fall of Civilization* closes January 10, 2016.

For more information, visit www.gardinermuseum.com.

WHAT: *Reflections on Culture and Identity* opening reception

WHO: Juan Alsace, US Consul General of Toronto
Kelvin Browne, Executive Director & CEO, Gardiner Museum
Karen Sheriff, Chair, Gardiner Museum Board

WHEN: Tuesday January 5, 6 – 8 PM, Remarks at 6:30 PM

WHERE: **Gardiner Museum** lobby
111 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, ON M5S 2C7

ABOUT JOANNA BIGFEATHER

Joanna Bigfeather is a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Her work as an artist, curator, and human rights activist reflects the historical treatment of Native Americans by the United States. After receiving her MFA from the State University of New York, Albany, she became the Director/Curator at the American Community House Gallery/Museum in New York City, and in 1999, she became director of the Institute of American Indian Arts Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Joanna's own work has won awards in ceramic sculpture and pottery, and can be seen in collections including the Smithsonian Institution, Heard Museum, Brooklyn Museum, and the Institute of American Indian Art Museum.

ABOUT JIM RIVERA

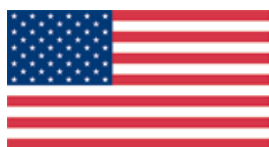
Jim Rivera (Siikioso), is Yoeme, (Pascua Yaqui) from Tucson, Arizona. He is an alumnus of the Institute of American Indian Arts (AIA), San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI) and the Vermont College of Fine Arts (VCFA). His artwork consists of painting, drawing, ceramics, installation, and found objects. Rivera has worked at IAIA for the past eighteen years in various positions and is currently Visiting Assistant Professor in Studio Arts.

ABOUT THE GARDINER MUSEUM

Located in the heart of Toronto at 111 Queen's Park Crescent, the Gardiner Museum is Canada's only ceramics museum, and one of the world's great specialty museums. The Gardiner is committed to making a contribution to the medium of ceramics, as well as the community it serves, and is an inviting destination that inspires and connects people, art and ideas through clay. The Gardiner's permanent collection comprises several extraordinary collections from sophisticated, dedicated collectors, making it one of the most significant centres of ceramics in North America. The breadth of the Museum's holdings include pottery from the Ancient Americas, rare examples of Meissen, Du Paquier and Chelsea porcelain, Chinese blue and white porcelain, Japanese and Japanese-inspired porcelain, to contemporary ceramics—including an exceptional donation from contemporary ceramics collector, Raphael Yu. For more information, details on exhibitions, events, workshops, clay classes, and more, please visit: www.gardinermuseum.com.

For more information, photos or to arrange an interview please contact:

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CONSULATE GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES
Toronto, Canada



Sheridan