The Entangled Gaze: A Knowledge-Exchange Workshop
Dr. Gerald McMaster, Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Visual Culture
Indigenous Visual Culture Research Centre

The Entangled Gaze: A Knowledge-Exchange Workshop took place over two days in February 2019 at the Haida Gwaii Museum at Kay Llnagaay. This workshop convened an interdisciplinary group of scholars, curators, Elders, and student participants from across Canada, United States, and Europe. Our objective was to facilitate a bidirectional exchange of knowledge between Indigenous Knowledge-Keepers and both Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers. Specifically, our aim was to determine how best to address knowledge and research about Indigenous artistic representations of non-Indigenous newcomers from the period of early contact to the present day – a perceptual shift defined through the idea of an Entangled Gaze. This workshop contributed a rare opportunity to stress the importance of Indigenous knowledge systems in the representation of cultural heritage resulting from points of contact.

As part of The Entangled Gaze participants helped to collaboratively develop a set of protocols for research accessibility, preservation, as well as respectful and meaningful engagement with the Indigenous knowledge online. This workshop is a key part of the on-going larger-scope project developing an online knowledge database format for the Virtual Indigenous Platform (VIP). The Entangled Gaze was a valuable opportunity to further an Indigenous-led strategy for the expansion of the Virtual Indigenous Platform as a digital collections database and an immersive curatorial space for Indigenous artists, scholars, and students.

Photo Credit: Captain Gold, Haida Gwaii Museum

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