



MĪCĒT TIPISKĀWI-PĪSIMAK*
PRESENTS
MAADA'OOKII

TO SHARE

FRANCES COOPER
ANNIE COURCHENE
TESS RAY HOUSTON
KRISTY JANVIER
AND LITA FONTAINE

COMMUNITY GALLERY
AUGUST 25 - OCTOBER 15, 2022



* Swampy Cree-Inineew, "Many Moons"
mĭcēt is many → tipiskāw is night or dark out → pĭsim is sun or moon → ak is plural
Phonics: me-**chet** tip-piss-**cow**-we **pea**-sim-muck

IMAGES (L-R): TOP: Tess Ray Houston, *Series Three: l'est*, 2022; BOTTOM: Annie Courchene, *Doodem*, 2022;
Frances Cooper, *our future is a shared purpose: Decade of Decisions*, 2022 [Detail]; Kristy Janvier, *The Weight We Carry (Deconstructed Jingle Dress)*, 2022 [Detail]; Kristy Janvier, *The Weight We Carry (Performance)*, 2022.

MAADA'OOKII

COMMUNITY GALLERY AUGUST 25-OCTOBER 15, 2022

ONLINE ARTIST PANEL AUGUST 26, 2022, 1:00PM

PUBLIC RECEPTION SEPTEMBER 22, 2022. 7:00PM

maada'ookii (Anishinaabe)

*s/he distributes something,
distribute gifts, shares
something with others.*

One of the values within Indigenous ways of knowing is sharing, reciprocity, which resulted with the name for this group's exhibition.

The artworks shared and displayed are composed by women sharing their stories. Through art, these five women have contributed stories, art techniques, traditions and enthusiasm under the theme of feminine landscape as a means of exposing their artistic expression.

Kristy Janvier, Annie Courchene, Frances Cooper, and Tess Houston, under the tutelage of Lita Fontaine, are pleased to present their gifts and artistry with you through sharing.

maada'ookii is an oral tradition, which has in the past and the present created a sense of belonging and relationship among one another.

Mitakuye Oyasin,

All My Relations

LITA FONTAINE, MENTOR describes herself as tri-cultural: Dakota, Anishinaabe, and Métis. She was born in 1958 in Portage la Prairie, and is a member of Long Plain First Nation. Fontaine spent her childhood in the north end of Winnipeg. She grew up with a deep understanding of Dakota and Anishinaabe cultures which is evident in her art practice. An educator and the artist-in-residence at the The Seven Oaks School Division, Fontaine believes that art nourishes emotional, physical and spiritual growth. Like many Indigenous people today, Fontaine feels as if she is living in two worlds at once.

Three Blue Circles, 2022

Three Blue Circles is my maada'ookii to this small group exhibition. This triptych or mandalas series is a mixed media and found objects work created with various shaped pieces of wood acquired in local Dollar Stores.

The circle has always been an important symbol to many First Nation cultures. The Circle represents the sun, the moon, the cycles of the seasons, and the cycle of life to death to rebirth.

Chi Miigwech.

FRANCES COOPER is an interdisciplinary artist who has been connecting, creating and contributing to Earth for decades. She is a mother/sister/auntie/wife of mixed descent and culture who is determined to remain intact and true to herself in our current world. She shares life values and learning while exploring this world and crafting her art. Creativity has been applied to all facets of life in her journey from growing up in the Parkland area of Manitoba to her current residence in The Pas.

She relies on nature as a wellspring for inspiration for her art and as a guide for sustainable art practices. Staying open and reciprocal with Mother Earth; and all of the factors that affect her; can be seen expressed throughout Frances' work.

our future is a shared purpose. 2022

The work is a visual expression of belonging within the Holocene era to Mother Earth with land based references of balance keeping. We are integrally belong to; and are responsible for; this planet we call home and that connection can give strength and equilibrium to our daily lives as we navigate the world we live in. We have a shared purpose and responsibility in this time to make decisions that have the greatest beneficial impact for the future while still be human and taking care of our most vulnerable living beings. Materials are ephemeral in nature and can be rematriated.



ABOVE: Lita Fontaine, *Iktomi*, 2022.

RIGHT: Frances Cooper, *our future is a shared purpose: Carry the Drum for Walks with Animals*-sun dogs, moon dogs, 2022 [In progress].

ANNIE COURCHENE is a 21 year old Anishinaabe visual artist from Sagkeeng First Nation, Manitoba, where she currently resides. She comes from a creative family, where her creative expression was always nurtured and encouraged, and she was able to build her skills throughout her life. She uses several media which include acrylic and aerosol painting, ink, graphite drawing, beadwork and sewing. She is inspired by Indigenous ideologies and traditional teachings, and incorporates them into her work. She strives to learn and carry on this wisdom and traditional crafts for future generations, and to help others with the healing found within the acts of being creative.

Doodem. 2022

This is made of one continuous piece of recycled copper wire. The idea behind this piece is connection. The connection to other people, and the healing found within each other. It's the idea of holding each other up and being whole in that way. Healthy community, where everyone is supported by each other, that is such a beautiful thing, such a beautiful idea. When imagining the world in which we want our children to grow up in, I imagine healthy communities, free of lateral violence.

TESS RAY HOUSTON is a multimedia Manitoba-based Artist and Creative Freelancer who uses their special interest and past experience in photography and makeup design to capture and illustrate moments that characterize the daily motion of their life.

Tess often times applies mixed media throughout their body of work, as it reflects the very nature of their mixed blood heritage. Mixed experiences are often contradicting, yet the fine line between this shared narrative carries honourable and painful truths for many.

Today, Tess resides in the heart of their homeland, looking to partner with fellow creatives in exploring life's odysseys.

Series Three, 2022

Made with the group's show title in mind, "Common Threads | Maada'ookii," *Series Three* is a representation of similarities displayed throughout recurring themes amongst four radial patterns, illustrating the connectivity of nature and people despite obvious differences.

Bold outlines bring forth a sense of community and individualism throughout each piece, while bright shapes inspired by the land, share a naturalistic familiarity we are all undoubtedly tied to as people.

KRISTY JANVIER is born and raised in Flin Flon and is of Dene (English River First Nation) and mixed European decent. At the age of 18 she began working overseas as a professional actress/dancer. After 15 years of working in the entertainment industry with Disney, Kristy returned to Canada relying on her presence/meditation practice to guide her work. Performances are influenced by improvisation yet structured from personal story incorporating images, installation, sound recording, and/or video. In addition to her performance work, Kristy has been sewing beadwork since 2018. Sales from her beadwork, *Secret_Life_of_Beads*, goes towards funding her family's bush cabin started in 1934 for future generations.

Weight We Carry, 2022

This is an interdisciplinary work made from ideas I have carried since 2018.

I have chosen rocks for my performance's artifact. Images of being weighed down by the rock, balancing the weight, carrying the rock(s) becomes the symbolic representation of motherhood. We carry our babies on our breast, our backs. Balancing it all in our day-to-day existence.

The landscape of my hometown of Flin Flon, MB is where the Canadian Shield and Boreal Forest meet. Houses teetering on rocks and the usual 6pm "boom" as the mine does its daily blast of underground rock were normal occurrences growing up. As I continue to contemplate the healing aspect as in my previous work, I am exploring how we carry so much while gracefully dancing through the transition to motherhood.



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The AGSM is on Treaty 2 territory. We acknowledge and honour the fact that we are on the traditional shared land of Cree, Oji-Cree, Anishinaabeg, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.