

Talking Stick Festival 2019 Industry Series Schedule

hə́nəmstəmxw tə syəθ – Using Tradition Activating Indigenous World Views

in partnership with

[Simon Fraser University Woodward's Cultural Programs](#) and [Primary Colours/Couleurs primaires Initiative](#)



Cultural Appropriation – What's That? Designed and Facilitated by France Trépanier and Chris Creighton-Kelly

Register at talkingstickfest.ca

This year's theme, ***Cultural Appropriation - What's That?*** examines the recent - and historically reoccurring - protest from Indigenous artists as they, once again, respond to careless use of Indigenous images/stories by the mainstream art world. This four-day forum explores the many tributaries that both flow into and also out of this complicated, contested issue in order to reframe the discussion toward Indigenous artistic self-determination. Participants – artists, artistic directors, arts presenters, arts scholars – funders will develop protocols that respectfully guide artistic creation and collaboration.

This is a working draft. Programming subject to change.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21st

ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION CENTRE, EXHIBITION HALL

181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver

7:00pm – 10:00pm: WA^X HOKS EN SHQALAWIN (OPEN YOUR HEARTS) OPENING GALA*

The Talking Stick Opening Gala is always a crowd pleaser! Gather in our hə́həmstəm̀xw tə syəθ Using Tradition Visual Arts Exhibition and sample selections of festival performances while you enjoy a buffet dinner. This year will feature music from Emily Wurraramara; originally from Grootte Eylandt in the Northern Territory, Emily sings original music both in English and Anindilyakwa. Join us for a night of celebration as we launch another year of Western Canada's premiere Indigenous Arts festival!

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22nd – SFU WOODWARDS WORLD ART CENTRE

2nd Floor, 149 W Hastings St, Vancouver

9:00am: REGISTRATION

9:30am – 10:00am: SAHPLEK BOB BAKER (SQUAMISH) TERRITORIAL WELCOME & REMARKS

10:00am – 1:00pm: OPENING A MESSY DEBATE (SESSION 1)

A performative presentation teases out the complicated conversations that try to understand issues surrounding cultural appropriation. There are many tributaries that flow into these conversations - colonialism; power relations; racism; fragility of artistic practice; cultural ownership; tradition; elders' knowledge and many that flow out - Indigenous artistic self-determination and sovereignty; censorship; copyright; new protocols and methodologies; artist rights; cultural hybridity. Participants - in both small group exchange and plenary discussions - open up the contradictory complexity of these confluences. *Light refreshments and coffee provided.*

1:00pm – 2:00pm: CATERED LUNCH

2:00pm – 5:00pm: WHAT IS CULTURAL APPROPRIATION? (SESSION 2)

Presenters: Meena Natarajan, Valerie Sing Turner, T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss, Greg Younging

A roundtable features four artists in conversation, each with their own experiences, reflections and insights into questions raised in the morning session. They address what appears to be a simple question - "What is cultural appropriation?", by responding to and challenging each other's ideas, with a view to expanding our collective knowledge as they 'walk around the tree' together. These deliberations are followed by small group discussions designed to elaborate difficulties inherent in cultural appropriation issues. *Co-presented with The Artists' Legal Outreach. Light refreshments and coffee provided.*

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

OTHER EVENTS TO ENJOY

8:00pm: CHILDREN OF GOD (OPENING NIGHT PERFORMANCE)*

YORK THEATRE

639 Commercial Drive, Vancouver

*denotes an event in which an additional charge may be required.

In this powerful musical, the children of an Oji-Cree family are sent to a residential school in Northern Ontario. This is a story of redemption: for a mother who was never let past the school's gate, and her kids, who never knew she came. *Children of God* offers a thrilling blend of ancient traditions and contemporary realities, celebrating resilience and the power of the Indigenous cultural spirit. *Contains swearing and sexual content. Due to the potentially triggering content of the performance, Emotional Support Workers will be available to provide support to audience members who may require it.*

8:00pm – 11:00pm: TSF LIVE @ THE CHIEF JOE
CHIEF JOE MATHIAS CENTRE
100 Capilano Road, North Vancouver

The Talking Stick Festival travels to the Chief Joe Recreation Centre on the Squamish Nation for a night of musical entertainment! Emily Wurramara (Australia) plays a full set with her band in both English and her traditional language Anandilyakwa. The North Shore's very own Bitterly Divine (Squamish Nation) perform acoustically full band set. DJ O Show (Squamish Nation) gets the party started by playing the classics. *Shuttle service available, times TBD.*

8:30pm: SLAM POETRY with JO BILLOWS
CAFÉ DEUX SOLIELS
2096 Commercial Drive, Vancouver

One of our most beloved events! Jo Billows (Northern Coast Salish) pulls together a slamdukin' evening in honour of "East Van ghetto poet" Zaccheus Jackson Nyce (Blackfoot), the original curator of this event. This evening will showcase a variety of poets and poetic styles. Be prepared to laugh and be moved by their powerful words!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd – SFU WOODWARDS WORLD ART CENTRE
2nd Floor, 149 W Hastings St, Vancouver

10:00am – 1:00pm: ARTISTIC CREATION: STORIES FROM THE FIELD (SESSION 3)
Presenters: Keith Barker, Denise Bolduc, and Yves Sioui Durand

A plenary presentation establishes a framework that goes beyond the simplistic polarization - "ownership vs. censorship" - by which cultural appropriation is normally interpreted both by media coverage and within artistic communities. Indigenous artists who have worked with institutional collaborators will speak about their real life experience. The recent, international protest against both SLĀV and Kanata - Épisode 1 - La Controverse, will be discussed. These and other concrete examples shed light on the knotty issues that arise in creating and presenting Indigenous work on mainstream stages. Small group discussions help to clarify the challenges of creative collaboration. *Light refreshments and coffee provided.*

LUNCH & DINNER ON YOUR OWN

OTHER EVENTS TO ENJOY

1:00pm – 2:00pm: THE ARTISTS' LEGAL OUTREACH CLINIC
SFU WOODWARDS WORLD ART CENTRE
149 W Hastings Street, Vancouver

The Artist's Legal Outreach offers an on-site legal clinic with lawyers Yvan Guy Laroque (associate, Miller Titerle) and Martha Rans (legal director, ALO) to talk about your personal copyright infringement/appropriation issue. You can book a time on Friday, February 22nd to meet with them on-site. For more information please send an email to artistslegaloutreach@gmail.com.

12:00pm – 5:00pm: CELEBRATION OF INDIGENOUS DANCE & ARTISAN FAIR
ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION CENTRE, EXHIBITION HALL & GYM
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver

Bring the whole family to enjoy a brilliant display of traditional and contemporary dance exhibitions from across Turtle Island, featuring dancers of all ages. Join in on the intertribal dances or simply watch the community's fancy footwork on the dancefloor!

7:00pm: INDIAN ACTS: STAGED READING SERIES, *LITTLE RED WARRIOR & HIS LAWYER*
ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION CENTRE, PERFORMANCE CENTRE
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver | This reading will be followed by a talkback session.

Little Red Warrior & His Lawyer is a satirical fable about power, politics and procreation. Little Red is the last remaining member of his tribe. One day while heading into town, Little Red discovers that the development firm Smith, Smyth and Goldsmith has violated his traditional territory. Enraged, he attacks one of their engineers, is arrested and assigned a court-appointed lawyer. Since Red no longer has a place to stay, the lawyer and his wife invite him to stay with them. But as they soon find out, when you invite a coyote into the coop, don't be surprised if he walks away with your chickens. *This project is made possible through the generous support of the BC Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts | Conseil des Arts du Canada and The Cultch residency program. Presented by Savage Society.*

8:00pm – 10:00pm: ROUNDHOUSE SOUL
ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION CENTRE, EXHIBITION HALL
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver

It's the first Saturday night of the festival so come join us at the Roundhouse for a fantastic evening of music featuring the emotionally charged soulful pop music of Caitlin Goulet (Metis), a full set from internationally renowned Brisbane singer Emily Wurramara, and music spinning throughout the night by DJ O Show (Squamish Nation).

8:00pm: CHILDREN OF GOD*
YORK THEATRE
639 Commercial Drive, Vancouver

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24th – HOLIDAY INN & SUITES VANCOUVER DOWNTOWN
1110 Howe Street, Vancouver

10:00am – 12:30pm: BRUNCH | UNANSWERED QUESTIONS (SESSION 4) – COLUMBIA ROOM

A check-in session over breakfast/brunch creates a safe(er) space for unanswered questions that have emerged so far in the Industry Series. This encourages participants to give feedback, sharing their own enquiries while formulating and then addressing their own burning questions. Participants have a chance to express where they are, to discover what challenges they see and also anticipate the next day's session by beginning to look at solutions, new protocols and guidelines. *Light refreshments and coffee provided. Advance registration for drop-in required by Friday February 22nd! industry@fullcircle.ca*

LUNCH & DINNER ON YOUR OWN

*denotes an event in which an additional charge may be required.

OTHER EVENTS TO ENJOY

1:00pm – 3:00pm: CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS INDIGENOUS FUNDING SESSION
HOLIDAY INN & SUITES DOWNTOWN
1110 Howe Street, Vancouver

Suzanne Keetwo, Canada Council for the Arts' Program Officer, will present an overview of Council's new indigenous-specific program *Creating, Knowing and Sharing: The Arts & Cultures of First Nation, Inuit, and Metis Peoples*, including eligibility criterion, artist profiles, the application process, funding opportunities, and tips to what makes a strong application!

1:00pm – 3:30pm: WHOSE ART IS IT?
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY WOODWARDS – WORLD ART CENTRE
149 W Hastings St, Vancouver

Whose art is it? An exploration of cultural appropriation versus equitable exchange. A nuanced exploration of cultural appropriation and its intersection with the dynamics of systemic oppression, this workshop will explore this concept through story, dialogue, ensemble work, physicality and movement. We will journey with this question: How is equitable syncretic exchange different from co-optation and extraction? Participants are asked to wear comfortable clothes. *Presented by Pangea World Theatre's Meena Natarajan and Dipankar Mukherjee.*

3:00pm – 4:00pm: VISUAL ARTS CURATOR TALK WITH RICHARD HEIKKLIÄ-SAWAN
ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION CENTRE, EXHIBITION HALL
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver

The visual arts exhibition of the Talking Stick Festival 2019, "TRADITION (tə syəθ): Reality, Allegory, Dimension", immediately invokes a sense of curiosity. It activates, questions, and essentially breaks from tradition. And that is the point. The work of the group of artists is diverse, contemporary, and provocative. At once complex and simple, it accomplishes what it sets out to do in uncomplicated terms – activating Indigenous worldviews using tradition. Preserving fire.

4:00pm – 5:15pm: INDIAN ACTS: STAGED READING SERIES, *THE SEVENTH FIRE*
ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION CENTRE, PERFORMANCE CENTRE
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver | This reading will be followed by a talkback session.

The Seventh Fire is a play by Lisa C. Ravensbergen that is filmic in nature and mythic in proportion, sourcing traditional, oral Anishinaabe stories and societal roles as a way to explore ceremony in the everyday. Set in the present, past, and future, it tells the story of a woman's return to the Ojibwe community she believes has rejected her. She discovers her destiny is tied to prophesy when she becomes pivotal to the community's survival. *The Seventh Fire* takes place in four time signatures, and above and below the earth, as sisters Daanis and Nimise, and grandmother Nokomis reach through time and space to be together where the horizon and land meet.

8:00pm – 10:00pm: REZ KIDS IN THE HOUSE
ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION CENTRE, PERFORMANCE CENTRE
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver

Polaris-nominated Snotty Nose Rez Kids take the stage at the Roundhouse for a must-see show. Come early as Mamarudegyal MTHC, one of Vancouver's finest hip-hop performers, opens the evening. *This event is suitable for 19+.*

8:00pm: CHILDREN OF GOD*
YORK THEATRE
639 Commercial Drive, Vancouver

*denotes an event in which an additional charge may be required.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25th – HOLIDAY INN & SUITES VANCOUVER DOWNTOWN**1110 Howe Street, Vancouver****10:00am – 1:00pm: LOOKING AT WISE PRACTICES: WHAT IS BEING DONE? (SESSION 5) – COLUMBIA ROOM**
Presenters: Barbara Diabo, Tarah Hogue, Lindsay Lachance, Émilie Monet

A second roundtable features four artists in conversation, speaking from their own perspectives on 'wise practices'. They shift the frame from being 'victims' of cultural appropriation to being agents of cultural self-determination. Considering their own art projects, they explore what works well; what works sometimes; and what to avoid. They elaborate current research about decolonizing artistic collaboration while working through cultural appropriation. Participants explore their own wise practices in preparation for the afternoon session. *Light refreshments and coffee provided.*

1:00pm – 2:00pm: CATERED LUNCH**2:00pm – 5:00pm: DEVELOPING DECOLONIZING PROTOCOLS (SESSION 6) – COLUMBIA ROOM**

A workshop session generates decolonizing methodologies, guidelines and protocols designed to respectfully avoid the pitfalls of cultural appropriation. Participants create realistic approaches relevant to 2019 by 'Using Tradition: Activating Indigenous Worldviews'. In this way, they reframe the understanding of cultural appropriation issues. These approaches are practical, based on the day-to-day experiences of working in the arts. They are useful for Indigenous and non-Indigenous arts workers alike - artists, critics, artistic directors presenters, funders. *Light refreshments and coffee provided.*

5:00pm – 5:15pm: CLOSING CIRCLE**WHILE YOU WAIT****5:00pm – 7:00pm: LGBTQ+2 POINTS OF VIEW: 2 SPIRIT ROUNDTABLE**
ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION CENTRE, EX HALL
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver

In this curated round-table discussion, Squamish Nation's DJ O Show will be joined by Tyler Jacobs, Anthony Hudson (Carla Rossi) and Jaibrend Johnson-Baker (Rainbowglitz) to discuss their point of views as Indigenous LGBTQ+2 artists and to share their stories.

7:00pm – 7:15pm: INDIAN ACTS: STAGED READING SERIES, KEEP THE FIRE BURNING (EXCERPT)
ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION CENTRE, PERFORMANCE CENTRE
181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver

A new work in development from Full Circle: First Nations Performance's Margo Kane. We are called to the Fire – a woman keeps it burning; she waits for others to join. While she waits, her memories drift around the fire. Her hopes and desires, her fears and her sorrows conjure stories for us to witness. She is not alone. *Joined by Squamish women, the Mathias Entertainers.*

7:00pm – 10:00pm: POP-UP MUSICAL BISTRO (CATERED DINNER)*
ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION CENTRE – 181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver
Gather with us at our mid-festival social and Industry Series Wrap. Fill your plate (and your glasses), mingle, and share your memories of the last four days. Accompanying the musical talents of Curtis Clearsky is an eclectic pop-up programming showcasing poets, musicians and visiting artists, and a cash bar.**WEY CHEWX YU | THANK YOU****denotes an event in which an additional charge may be required.*