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All My Relations Arts, the Emerging Curators Institute and the Native American Community Development Institute announce the debut of *Niimiwin: Bijiinag igo ingii-azhegiwe gaa-niimi'iding*

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For immediate release:

MINNEAPOLIS (October 16th, 2024) All My Relations Arts, the Emerging Curators Institute and the Native American Community Development Institute are pleased to present *Niimiwin: Bijiinag igo ingii-azhegiwe gaa-niimi'iding* curated by 2023-2024 Emerging Curators Fellow, Josie Hoffman.

Niimiwin is a dynamic multimedia exhibition which explores the profound relationship between movement and identity within contemporary Indigenous art. Inspired by the vibrant traditions of dance and powwow, this showcase features a diverse array of Minnesota-based Indigenous artists whose work delves into the theme of kinetic movement—both in its physical form and its metaphorical resonance. *Niimiwin*, which translates to “Everyone Dance” in Anishinaabemowin, is an exploration of how movement manifests within our bodies, our connection to the land, and our relationships within the community. The Anishinaabemowin phrase, *Bijiinag igo ingii-azhegiwe gaa-niimi'iding* (*I recently returned home from a powwow*), evokes the feeling of community and connection shared from participating in the vibrancy and celebration of a powwow. This exhibition invites you to experience the dynamic interplay of material, process, and result as artists from various disciplines—ranging from ceramics and photography to powwow singing and beyond—embody the essence of kinetic energy in their creations.

Through their unique approaches and perspectives, the featured artists weave together narratives that highlight the fluidity and vibrancy of movement. Whether through the movement within their process, the visual impact of imagery, or the rhythmic patterns of sound, each piece in *Niimiwin* captures the vitality of movement as it intersects with cultural identity and relationships.



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“As you engage with this exhibition, we encourage you to reflect on how movement shapes and defines your own connections to land, body, and community. *Niimiwin* is an invitation to witness and contemplate the continuous dance of life and art, celebrating the beauty of Indigenous expression. We are honored to share this journey with you and look forward to the conversations and insights that will emerge from this exploration of kinetic movement.” - Josie Hoffman, exhibition curator.



For questions on the accessibility of the exhibition and the venue, please contact arts@nacdi.org.

ABOUT THE CURATOR:

Josie Hoffman (Grand Portage Ojibwe) is a multimedia, interdisciplinary artist whose work is deeply rooted in movement and expression. As a visual artist, powwow dancer, and aerialist, her practice explores themes of environment, body politics, mental health, community, family, and cultural history. With a commitment to amplifying diverse voices and narratives, Josie is poised to create impactful exhibitions that reflect the richness of cultural histories and contemporary dialogues. Learn more at <https://www.josephinelynn.com/about>.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Adrienne M. Benjamin, or Amikogaabawiikwe, (She/Her/Hers) is an Anishinaabe multi-faceted artist, equity advocate, and cultural educator. She utilizes the lessons of her life mentors and community elders to create meaningful, current, socially relevant, and culturally significant work that intersects with her Anishinaabe values, history, and life ways. Learn more at <https://www.yoadrienneb.net/>.

Courtney Cochran is an Anishinaabe multidisciplinary artist, filmmaker, and community organizer based in Minneapolis. Her work addresses social justice movements, connection to community and to culture, self-exploration, healing, and joy. Learn more at https://www.instagram.com/skoden_studio/?hl=en.

Chanelle Gallagher is enrolled in the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and is Bullhead Clan. She is a Minneapolis based ceramic artist who creates contemporary functional pottery inspired by water, our mother earth, and the beauty of her ancestors. Learn more at https://www.instagram.com/waabigan_clay/.



**Emerging
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Institute**

Tasunka Opi (Wounded Horse), aka Michael Kurtz, is a Lakota Wildlife Photographer. Michael is an enrolled member of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of Lower Brule, South Dakota. His photography shows his love for wildlife and tracking animals. Learn more at <https://www.lakotaphotography.org/>.

Courtney M. Leonard (Shinnecock) is an artist and filmmaker, who has contributed to the Offshore Art movement. Leonard's practice investigates narratives of cultural viability as a reflection of environmental record. Learn more at <https://courtneyleonard.com/home.html>.

The Stonebridge Singers Drum is a drum group of singers from the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The group includes a revolving roster of singers including: John Vogel, Trevor Deschampe, Marcus Logan, Brent Sorenson and Dylan Deschampe and others.

ABOUT THE HOSTS:

Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI) Our work is founded on the belief that all American Indian people have a place, purpose and a future strengthened by sustainable community development. NACDI initiates projects that benefit the Native community, often in partnership with other Indigenous-led organizations. Learn more at nacdi.org.

All My Relations Arts (AMRA) is Minnesota's premier American Indian owned and operated contemporary fine arts gallery. Located on Franklin Avenue in Minneapolis, the gallery resides within the heart of the American Indian Cultural Corridor. The focus of AMRA is to provide the people of the Twin Cities, greater Minnesota, and beyond consistently high-quality exposure to Native American fine arts. As an initiative of NACDI, AMRA provides the public with education about American Indian history, culture, and contemporary experiences through the arts. Learn more at allmyrelationsarts.com.

The Emerging Curators Institute is designed to build the individual practices of emerging curators from diverse backgrounds through an in-depth research, professional development, and presentation program. Learn more at <https://www.emergingcurators.org/>.

This activity is made possible, in part by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

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