

Biography of Terrance Houle (Born 1975)

Terrance Houle (Niitsitapi/ Saulteaux) is an internationally recognized interdisciplinary media artist and a member of the Kainai Nation/ Blood Tribe. Involved with Aboriginal communities all his life, he has travelled to reservations throughout North America participating in Powwow dancing along with his native ceremonies. His work ranges from subversive to humorous absurdity to solemn and poetic artistic expressions. His work often relates to the physical body as it investigates issues of history, colonization, Aboriginal identity and representation in popular culture, as well as conceptual ideas based on memory, home, and reserve communities. Houle works in whatever media strikes him, and has produced work in photography, painting, installation, mass marketing, performance, music, video, and film. Houle's work has been exhibited across Canada, the United States, Australia, the UK and Europe. Since 2014, Houle has been working on an ongoing collaborative project titled GHOST DAYS.

Currently, He has co-directed a short animation Otanimm/Onnimm with his daughter Neko Wong-Houle which toured Film festivals 2020- 2024, In Los Angeles, NYC, Toronto, New Zealand, Vancouver, Oxford & many more. Recently their short film won the prestigious Golden Sheaf Indigenous Award at Yorkton Film Festival and is Neko's First Award in Film at 17 years old. Houle is based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Artist Statement:

As an interdisciplinary artist I am often engaged in ongoing research in various mediums, practices, collaborations or engagements related to my Ghost Days project. I have worked in various communities from my traditional Indigenous ceremonies (Sundance) to various mentorship programs involving Indigenous youth using media or arts studio as work programs. I am currently working under my moniker project GHOST DAYS, which is an ongoing project that I treat much like a band with rotating collaborators both old and new. GHOST DAYS is a project that involves collaboration with Spirit, spirits, ghost, hauntings & the apparition. Evoking our colonial and non-colonial histories that exist in the light of night as in the darkness of the day, GHOST DAYS awakens a collaboration with artists, audience, and spirit. GHOST DAYS combines video, performance, photography, and music to conjure spirits and ghosts as audience and collaborators.