

## Neon NDN

### Indigenous Pop-Art Exhibition: Curated by Jocelyn Piirainen

Opening: Saturday Aug. 13, 7:30pm

@ SAW Gallery (67 Nicholas St.)

Exhibition Dates: August 13 to September 30

\* Gallery Crawl:  
Catch the Bus from  
SAW to G101 at  
4:30pm. Catch the  
return bus from G101  
to SAW at 7:00pm



## Neon NDN

ne·on

noun

Origin

late 19th Century: from Greek, literally “something new”

In an article titled “Is There an Indigenous Way to Write about Indigenous Art?”, Richard William Hill recently contemplated “in purely practical terms, how would you bracket off Indigenous culture?”

Where do you draw the line? No more pop culture?"<sup>1</sup>

Had certain Indigenous artists bracketed off pop culture, Neon NDN would have been something quite different. In this Information Age, pop culture is everywhere and it's not surprising many contemporary Indigenous artists engage with popular characters from film, television, video games, comic books, even corporate symbols and brand names. Through interacting with, reclaiming, and repurposing popular culture, Indigenous artists challenge a number of stereotypes and Hollywood tropes that have been set against Indigenous people and culture.

These contemporary Indigenous artists have found ways to embrace pop culture, while at the same time digging around the deep historical roots. While not all are exclusively pop culture oriented, they do challenge the traditional sensibilities and stereotypes surrounding the ideas of what Indigenous art should be.

The pieces all have one commonality about them: they give a sense of levity while still maintaining a lot of wit. They are not just novel but transcend preconceived notions of indigeneity.

<sup>1</sup> Richard William Hill, "Is There an Indigenous Way to Write about Indigenous Art?", *Canadian Art*, May 25, 2016, <http://canadianart.ca/features/indigenous-way-write-indigenous-art/>



## Curator Biography

Jocelyn Piirainen is an emerging curator with a growing interest in indigenous contemporary art. Her entry into the curatorial world began in with the first ever Indigenous Curatorial Incubator program, where she put together the “UnMENTionables” screening program and helped coordinate the “Memories of the Future” exhibition for the 2015 Asinabka Film and Media Arts Festival.

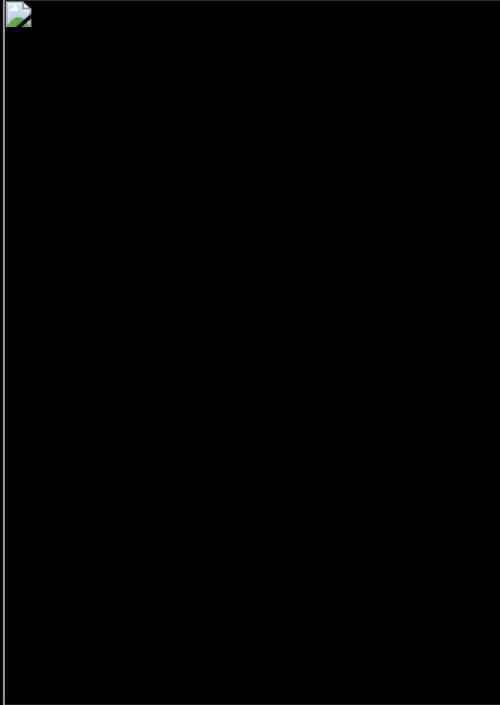
After graduating from film studies at Carleton University, a contract with the Inuit Art Foundation found her developing her appreciation for Inuit art. Since then, she maintained ties with the Indigenous arts and cultural community. Her work as administrative assistant at the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health has seen her working closely with community programming.

As an urban inuk, she has developed her experience in service for cultural agencies in the nation's capital. She hopes, one day, to open up an Inuit art gallery and promote our talented Nunavummiut artists.

## Neon NDN

### List of Artists

Steven Paul Judd  
Tanya Linklater  
Media art collective AM  
(Caroline Monnet & Sebastien Aubin)  
Christian Chapman  
Kent Monkman  
Annie Pootoogook  
Nicotye Samayualie  
Shuvinai Ashoona  
Linus Woods  
Sonny Assu  
Barry Ace  
Rackia Karaitiana  
Miki Haka  
Natasha Keating  
Richard Heikkilä-Sawan  
Ludovic Boney  
Alison Bremner  
Rande Cook  
Qavavau Manumie



## Limited Edition

Christian Chapman (Anishinaabe)  
"Asinabka Festival Soup"  
22.5" x 29"  
Silkscreen on paper  
2016

15 Limited Edition Prints for Sale by the Artist.

Available at the Neon NDN Opening on August 13  
at SAW Gallery.

Every year the Asinabka Festival curates and presents exhibitions of contemporary Indigenous media-art. This year we are honoured to partner with [Gallery 101](#) and [SAW Gallery](#) to present two new exhibitions during August & September 2016. Both shows will open as a part of a Gallery Crawl on Saturday August 13, with a free Bus\* available for guests to travel between Gallery's.

\* Catch the Bus from SAW to G101 at 4:00pm. Catch the return bus from G101 to SAW at 7:00pm



# G101



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

**Special Thanks to the Ontario Arts  
Councils Aboriginal Curatorial Projects**