



2020–2021
Annual Report

LATITUDE 53

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Mark Clintberg, Portal 2-3(2020), rice paper, ink, 24" x 48"

Cover: Elsa Robinson, Possibilities (2019).

President's Report

I have been attending Latitude 53 for my entire adult life, and have been on the board for the past 6 years. Through that time, my favourite part has been going to openings. Getting to meet people, talk to artists, and have a shared experience centred around art is what I love most about living in this city. Despite missing out on these experiences for the year I've had the privilege of being Latitude 53's president, I've come away from the year with much more appreciation for the organization, and even more hope for its future.

Moving forward, Latitude 53 still faces challenges. The continued uncertainty about provincial arts funding and charitable casino revenue is a serious concern, I know I'm not alone in losing sleep over this. We also have to reckon with the role we play as an institution in making sure we are programming diverse voices, and doing our part towards decolonization, starting with the arts community.

I'm incredibly thankful for our thoughtful board. Without exception, every member of our board this year has been a joy to work with, and has brought an immense amount of care to the decisions we have made. Matthew, Isabelle, Emily, Ana, Ferdinand, Brenda, Eric, and Sean have all been wonderful to share the decision-making with.



Max Amerongen
Board President

I'd also like to thank Rob, Jason, and Lauren who have had to step away from the board during the course of the year, all three because of the amount of work involved in their exciting new projects. In their time on the board, and in Rob's ongoing involvement as an advisor, they have all contributed to the organization, and I'm glad to see all three continuing to support the organization despite having stepped away from the board.

I'm very grateful for Latitude 53's excellent staff. Michelle, Adam, Raneece, Max, Cheyenne, Kiona, Sanaa, Preston, Hannah, Jenna, Ash, and Adrienne have all stepped up under difficult circumstances, and done their jobs incredibly well. Knowing the organization is in their capable hands makes the experience of being on the board so rewarding. While some have since moved on to other opportunities, we're very grateful for everyone's work in building the organization and building community.

And of course, thank you to the artists, patrons, members, volunteers, and visitors who keep the gallery running. Above all, this year has made me grateful for the arts community here. I believe that artists, artist-run centres, and community members here have, despite the incredibly difficult times, continued to treat each other with care and compassion, even when pushing each other to do better.

Executive Director's Report

Over the past year, we've been given many opportunities to think about who we exist for and our relationship to this place. We have been building foundations that will support the work we want to do in the future, focused on programming, fundraising, policy and jobs. Unlike these more visible parts of the organization, we have also been doing the less measurable and largely unseen work of building trusting relationships, creating connectivity with communities and supporting the collective growth that will continue to sustain our organization and others in the community.

A large focus has been on our relationships in the community and rooting down. Initially, this was not entirely by choice—the gallery space was closed to the public for much of the year and we moved through various stages of lockdown, all of which necessitated staying in place. But it was from this place that we were able to undertake a major public art project unlike anything we had done previously. Curated by Cheyenne Rain LeGrande ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ | Mamanaw Pekiskwewina | Mother Tongues: amiskwacîwâskahikan was a test of, and testimony to, community and relationships. The sheer number of people, local businesses and institutions that came together to make this project happen was truly uplifting, reinvigorating community relationships



Michelle Schultz
Executive Director

through the celebration of the ancestral languages of Treaty 6.

Last fall, we also reimagined our annual fundraising event Schmoozy with a focus on responsible fundraising practices. This included the first step of ensuring that proceeds were shared more directly with artists. The pandemic necessitated a shift to a hybrid event but we also took the opportunity to rethink what supporting contemporary art practices in this city could look like, and how to highlight artists and their work, in a way that felt generous and accessible.

We have also been thinking about who our community is and how we engage with them. Our Accessibility & Outreach Coordinator Max Elwood, has been developing safe(r) space and accessibility guidelines for the gallery, and undertaking community consultations to collectively envision what an accessible visual arts venue, workplace, and community looks like.

Currently, we are thinking about the future and where we are going next. Part of this is a view to new space, and hopefully a more permanent home where we can continue to root down and build a vibrant community that is inclusive and generous to artists.

I want to say a special thank you to our outgoing Board President, Max Amerongen, who has dedicated 6 years to Latitude 53 and been an active and engaged leader, patron and volunteer for the organization, as well as all the dedicated board members, staff, volunteers, members, patrons, supporters and community members who make this work not only possible, but a true pleasure. And to all the artists, writers and curators we work with, thank you for entrusting us with your work as we build this community together.

Vision, Mission, Values

Board of Directors

Vision

Latitude 53 empowers artists engaged with contemporary culture.

Mission

Latitude 53 is an artist-centred organization that supports artists, writers and curators who question, inform and inspire.

Latitude 53 is a site for risk-taking, experimentation and curiosity.

Latitude 53 works to sustain artists and the community that supports them in an ethical, responsible and resilient way.

Latitude 53 is an advocate for the local art community and for creating connections nationally and internationally.

Values

Inclusivity - to create a place of belonging

Responsiveness - to respond and adapt to the needs of artists and the arts community, as well as social, cultural and political concerns.

Connectivity - to build and sustain collective energy, knowledge and resources within and amongst communities.

Transparency - to be clear and accountable in all activities

Boldness - to be courageous, to be inspiring, to elevate future possibilities

Max Amerongen, President

Lauren Crazybull, Director*

Brenda Draney, Director

Isabelle Hebert, Treasurer

Ferdinand Langit, Director

Eric Newby, Director

Jason Purcell, Director*

Emily Riddle, Director

Ana Ruiz, Director

Matt Ward, Director

Robert Sleight, Special Advisor to the Board

*Departed prior to AGM



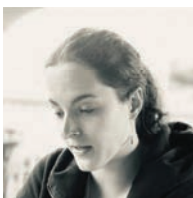
Max Amerongen is a designer from Edmonton. He graduated from industrial design at the University of Alberta in 2014. He was the director of the Student Design association, and was previously a board member at Paths for People. Max is currently a designer at Sticks & Stones, a content-focused marketing firm. He is interested in using art and design as tools for social and political change. He is also a board member at MADE.



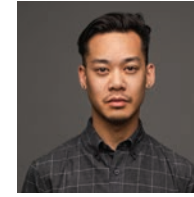
Lauren Crazybull is a Niitsitapi, Dené painter living and working in Amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton, Alberta). Lauren won the 2020 Eldon & Anne Foote prize, 2020 Lieutenant Governors Emerging Artist Award and was shortlisted for the Kingston Portrait Prize in 2019. In 2019, they were selected as the inaugural Artist in Residence for Alberta. Through the work they do, Lauren understands that their creative power is a poignant way to assert their own humanity, and advocate, in diverse and subtle ways, for the innate intellectual, spiritual, creative and political fortitude of Indigenous people.



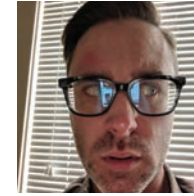
Brenda Draney is Cree from Sawridge First Nation, Treaty 8, with a strong connection to Slave Lake. Draney's work is collected and shown across Canada including the National Gallery of Canada, the Embassy of Canada Art Gallery, the Art Gallery of Alberta, the Sobey Collection, and the Shorefast Foundation. She shows in Banff, Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver, and Ottawa. She won both the 2009 RBC Painting Competition and 2014's Eldon and Anne Foote Visual Arts Prize in Edmonton and was short listed for the 2016 Sobey Art Award at the National Gallery of Canada.



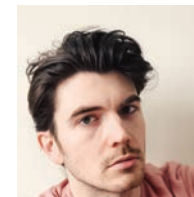
Isabelle Hebert fell in love with theatre at the age of 9 when she saw her very first live professional theatre production in Edmonton. In 2012 Isabelle received her BFA in Technical Theatre with a Specialization in Stage Management and subsequently pursued a full time career as a Stage Manager in Edmonton. She later switched gears and joined ATB, and started her banking career. In 2017 ATB established the Branch for Arts + Culture. She has been with that team since the very beginning, and truly loves blending both her passions: the arts and helping people with their financial needs. She currently leads the financial side as their Business Leader. Her love of the arts community and helping bring its financial stability has also led Isabelle to be on Edmonton Screen Industry Office's advisory committee since 2018. She is thrilled to be part of Latitude 53's board as their Treasurer.



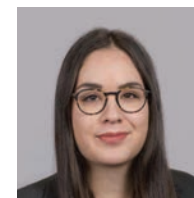
A quintessential design and fine-art geek, **Ferdinand Langit** is a non-profit professional who has held various roles that have focused on marketing, communications, fund development and community engagement. He attended the University of Alberta where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a specialization in Political Philosophy. His volunteer experiences include co-hosting a show on CJSR Radio and serving on the board of the Pride Centre of Edmonton, as well as the Society of Northern Alberta Print-artists. In his spare time you can find Ferdinand playing on his Nintendo Switch.



Eric Newby is an associate at Punchcard Systems, a boutique software developer and business consultant firm based in downtown Edmonton. In Vancouver he started up a successful photography business focusing on advertising pairing closely with Vancouver based advertising agency, Dead Famous. Podcasting became a passion at this time as he started up NewbsRadio with Canadian singer-songwriter David Newberry. Now, Eric and his wife, Angie, find the time to run Edmonton Pet Photography and are kept busy with snapping photos of pets around the city.



Jason Purcell is a writer and co-owner of Glass Bookshop.



Emily Riddle is a nehiyaw writer, researcher, and library worker. She is a member of the Alexander First Nation in Treaty Six territory and lives in her traditional territory in Edmonton. Her first poetry chapbook will be published by Moon Jelly Press in 2021. She is on the Board of Advisors for the Yellowhead Institute, a First Nations think tank based out of Ryerson University. She has experience working with First Nations and Metis communities on policy, governance, and communications projects. She is currently the Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations for the Edmonton Public Library and was named Top 30 Under 30 by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation in 2019. Her writing has appeared in the Globe and Mail, Teen Vogue, Vice, Canadian Art and other publications.



Ana Ruiz Aguirre is a Cuban-Canadian researcher and writer who is obsessed with art. Her doctoral research examining the strategy and impact of Cuban cultural diplomacy in North America was awarded a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and she was a Mitacs Globalink Research Scholar at Universidad Autónoma de México. Ana was part of the Public Diplomacy and the Economy of Culture Research Group at Queen’s University, and has worked at Fondo Cubano de Bienes Culturales, and the Art Gallery of Alberta.

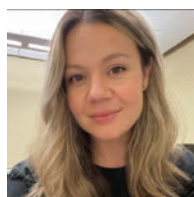


Matt Ward is a 28 year-old queer nêhiyaw from Driftpile Cree Nation (Treaty 8) living on Treaty 6 territory in amiskwacîwâskahikan. With a background in community based research and Critical Indigenous studies, they work and volunteer in the housing/ homelessness, poverty reduction, and broader community services sector. Their current roles include Manager of Planning & Engagement at Homeward Trust, Chair of the Human Services Community Granting Committee at the Edmonton Community Foundation, and Board member at REACH Edmonton. In their free time they’re usually found downtown Edmonton, where they live. They’ve got a lovely community garden plot, a membership to a gym they never go to, and a love for decaf coffee, craft beer, and video games.



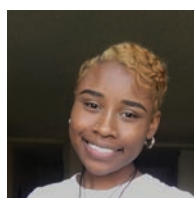
Robert Sleight earned his doctorate in industrial-organizational psychology (quantitative track) at the University of Georgia. He also has a doctorate in law (JD) and master’s degrees in taxation (M.Acc), and psychology (M.S. en passant). He has “Big-4” accounting experience, has served as a Chief Operating Officer of a multi-national corporation, and most recently has worked with North America’s premier executive assessment firm as a subject matter expert and external consultant. Robert’s scholarly work is focused on diversity & inclusion.

- Adrienne Beauregard**, Art From Here II Project Manager (from Sept 2021)
- Raneece Buddan**, Communications Manager
- Max Elwood**, Accessibility & Outreach Coordinator (from May 2021)
- Ash Hariharan**, Gallery Intern (from Sept 2021)
- Sanaa Humayun**, Digital Program Coordinator (until May 2021)
- Jenna Jaikaran**, Community Studio Coordinator (from Sept 2021)
- Kiona Ligtoet**, Peer Mentorship Coordinator (until May 2021)
- Preston Pavlis**, Communications Manager (until January 2021)
- Hannah Quimper-Swidorski**, Digital Programming Coordinator (from Sept 2021)
- Cheyenne Rain LeGrande ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ**, Curatorial Assistant (until Oct 2021)
- Alexandra Stout**, U of A Practicum Student (until April 2021)
- Michelle Schultz**, Executive Director
- Adam Waldron- Blain**, Program Manager



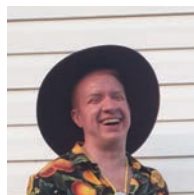
Adrienne Beauregard is an early career Métis visual artist and cultural worker in Edmonton (Amiskwaciy Waskahikan), Alberta, Canada. Her experience draws from a decade of involvement within art organizations. She is a BFA graduate from the University of Alberta and is active in her community as a Visual Arts Curator for SkirtsAFire Festival, and a committee member for Schmoozy, Latitude53. Her artworks have been shown in exhibitions locally, most recently with Artists in the Fallow at Brighton Block, Edmonton in July 2021. Adrienne's practice searches for an aesthetic which is experiential and immersive and looks further into indigenous land based methodologies and traditional practices.

As the Art From Here II Project Manager, Adrienne will oversee Art From Here II, a project in collaboration with the Mitchell Art Gallery, Ociciwan and SNAP, to create a series of digital studio visit videos of local visual artists through a mentorship program.



Ranece Buddan is a Jamaican Artist currently residing in Edmonton, Alberta. She completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art and Design at the University of Alberta in 2020. Her work focuses on her cultural identity as a Jamaican of Indo and Afro-Caribbean decent. Addressing the complexity of being a part of many ethnicities, she expresses the struggles but also the pride she feels.

As the Communications Manager, Ranece oversees Latitude 53's communications across various platforms including social media, the member's newsletter and the gallery website. She designs promotional material for exhibitions and events as well.



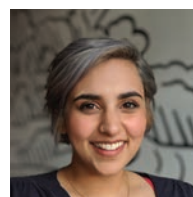
Max Elwood is a queer and disabled artist, community worker, and caregiver who works within 2SLGBTQ+ and disabled communities in Amiskwaciwâskahikan/Edmonton, AB. As of spring 2021, they completed MacEwan University's Fine Art diploma program, and will be moving on to complete a BA in Disability Studies through Ryerson University. Their art practice often acts as a reflection of their lived experiences, as well as an exploration of the wider community dynamics that their identities relate to. In all of their work - artistic or otherwise - they reject capitalist notions of productivity, prioritizing their access needs

As the Accessibility & Outreach Coordinator, Max will be developing safe(r) space and accessibility guidelines for the gallery, as well as engaging the Latitude 53 staff, board, and volunteers in workshops to meet these guidelines. Max's work will facilitate community access and engagement with Latitude 53.



Ash Hariharan is a first generation immigrant from Kerala living on Treaty 6 territory in Amiskwaciwâskahikan. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Biology and Sociology at the University of Alberta in 2019. Ash has a background in community based health research and works extensively in youth harm reduction.

As the Gallery Intern, Ash supports the gallery team with administration, fundraising and events, membership and volunteers, communications and marketing, grants and finance, and programming.



Sanaa Humayun is the Digital Program Coordinator at Latitude 53, and an emerging visual artist residing in so-called Edmonton, Alberta, trying to make art and make space for BIPOC. She is currently doing her BFA at the Alberta University of the Arts. She is involved in socially aware projects, such as Latitude 53 & the Mitchell Art Gallery's project Writing From Here. Her art explores themes surrounding her identity as a queer, fat, woman of colour, and her right to take up space without facing violence.

As the Digital Program Coordinator, Sanaa works directly with artists and staff to facilitate a number of digital programs and events. She has organized and co-led virtual book clubs and continues to oversee the Art From Here project.



Jenna Jaikaran is a recent grad of the Visual Communication Design program with a minor in Social Sciences at the University of Alberta. She works primarily as a freelance graphic designer, and loves playing around with funky illustrations and fun colours. In her spare time, you can find her riding her bike around the city, sketching strangers, and climbing trees.

As the Community Studio Coordinator, Jenna will oversee the creation and maintenance of artist studios through Latitude 53. This role will work to create a generative, welcome, and accessible environment for practicing artists



Kiona Ligtvoet is a Cree/Métis artist from Michel First Nation, currently practicing in amiskwaciwâskahikan. Kiona received her BFA at the University of Alberta. She is interested in exploring a non-linear telling of memories through narrative work and personal archiving. Kiona draws from feelings of displacement and enfranchisement within her own Indigenous identity, but also from moments of deep belly laughter.

As Peer Mentorship Coordinator, Kiona worked closely with Latitude 53's Digital Program Coordinator, and alongside core staff. Kiona will be developing, coordinating and building community through the peer mentorship program Making Space, at arms-length from Latitude 53.



Preston Pavlis is an artist based in Edmonton, Alberta. Pavlis completed his Diploma of Fine Arts at MacEwan University in 2019. Currently, he is interested in the fusion of painting and textiles as a way to explore narrative and form. His work is an attempt at traversing liminal bridges through poetic association and metaphor. The resulting works are charts for memory, material and history.

As the Communications Manager, Preston oversaw Latitude 53's communications across various platforms including social media, the member's newsletter and the gallery website. He contributed written material for exhibitions and events and did a bit of design work as well.



Hannah Quimper-Swidorski (she/they) is an artist from Edmonton-Amiskwaciwâskahikan. They work primarily with performance art and video, addressing concepts of gender performativity, identity and the body as a contextually loaded form. Hannah often works through the lens of pop culture, exploring her own identity through archetypal characters and visual identities found within b-movies, late night television, and advertising. Hannah recently completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art and Design at the University of Alberta in 2019, and is looking forward to completing a certificate in Arts and Cultural Management from MacEwan University in 2022.

As Digital Program Coordinator, Hannah will be managing the Art From Here project, as well as continuing the development of Alcove, an online gathering space for the arts community.



Cheyenne Rain LeGrande ᐱᓯᓴᓴᓴ is a Nehiyaw Isko artist, from Bigstone Cree Nation. She resides in amiskwaciwâskahikan also known as Edmonton, Alberta. Cheyenne graduated from Emily Carr University with her BFA in 2019. Her work often explores the interconnection between history and the body and is interdisciplinary; moving through installation, photography, video, sound, and performance art.

As the Curatorial Assistant, Cheyenne is developing research towards an upcoming curatorial project involving Indigenous languages across Treaty Six territory and beyond. Working directly with artists and organizations across the city, she will oversee programming related to these projects.



Alexandra Stout (she/her) is an arts worker from Beaumont, Alberta. She is a recent graduate of the History of Art, Design, and Visual Culture program at the University of Alberta.

As the Practicum Student, Alexandra developed a questionnaire for artists we had worked with on how we served them and what they would want out of relationships with artist run centres.



Michelle Schultz is a curator and arts administrator who has worked in public and private institutions in Canada, the US and the UK for the past 10 years. She studied History of Art, Design & Visual Culture at the University of Alberta before moving to London, UK to complete an MA in Contemporary Art from the Sotheby's Institute of Art. She is a founding member of GALERIE8 an East London project & exhibition space.

As Executive Director, Michelle works directly with the Board of Directors and staff to oversee Latitude 53's programming, operations, finances and development. She has guided the organization through a period of change in coordination with the newly-established Vision, Mission and Values and 2020-25 Strategic Plan.



Adam Waldron-Blain has worked with local, national and international artists to mount Latitude 53's exhibition programming, and in the past year, he oversaw the relaunch of the gallery's publication program. As an artist, Adam has worked in various performance and video practices, games, writing and conversation, and other objects.

As Program Manager, Adam works directly with local, national and international artists to develop Latitude 53's programming. He brings vital and extensive experience in mounting exhibitions and engaging in conversations with artists, and he has recently overseen the relaunch of the gallery's Publications program.

Exhibitions



Mark Clintberg: Portal

NOVEMBER 14, 2020 – FEBRUARY 13, 2021



Mark Clintberg's exhibition Portal uses installation, textiles, works on paper and other materials to approach the archive as a queer portal for intellectual, erotic, and sensory encounter. Here, the archive can be thought of as a physical place for research, and a discursive space created through dialogue and relationship. The included works refer to elements of the regional history of non-normative sexualities, as well as text and drawings pulled from popular culture, print archives, and histories associated with the nation state named "Canada."

Collaborators have made this show possible, including Jarvis Hall, Megan Kirk, and Jolie Bird. Significant sources for the development of this work include the Archives (Toronto), Les archives gaies du Québec (Montreal), the Canadian Architectural Archives (Calgary) and Kevin Allen's book *Our Past Matters*. Exhibition text by Crystal Mowry.



ARTIST IN CONVERSATION WITH CRYSTAL MOWRY | DECEMBER 12

Mark Clintberg held a conversation with Crystal Mowry, author of "Portal's" exhibition text "epigraph for another room." The virtual conversation was streamed on YouTube and Facebook.

Mamanaw Pekiskwewina: amiskwacîwâskahikan | Mother Tongues

APRIL 1 – OCTOBER 2, 2021



Edna Elias, *Expressions of Elation*, 2021, Language: Inuktun (Inuvialuktun and Inuktitut).
Location: Alex Decoteau Park, 10230 105 Street

Curated by Cheyenne Rain LeGrande ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ

Mamanaw Pekiskwewina | Mother Tongues: amiskwacîwâskahikan is a celebration of the ancestral languages of Treaty 6. It is beautiful to witness, stand beside, care for the incredible public [gifts of art]. Mamanaw Pekiskwewina: amiskwacîwâskahikan includes seven traditional indigenous languages of Treaty 6: Inuktun (Inuvialuktun and Inuktitut), nêhiyawêwin, Nitsiipowahsiin, Michif, Denesų́łiné, Nahkawiwin and Nakota. These ancestral languages are embedded across the downtown core in amiskwacîwâskahikan. Visibility is powerful and to have the living languages which come from this land be seen in the midst of an urban environment speaks to the resilience and the survival of our people and languages. This makes our hearts soar.



Wanahae, *AHOCAPAM NE WATEZHE WIYANKTE, WICAKTE (PROTECT TWO SPIRIT YOUTH)*, 2021, Language: Nakota
Location: Latitude 53, 10242 - 106 Street

Mamanaw Pekiskwewina | Mother Tongues was originally conceived by Missy LeBlanc for TRUCK Contemporary Art in Mohkínstsis/Kootsisáwa/Wincheesh-pah/Calgary and presented in concert with Taskoch pipon kona kah nipa muskoseya, nepin pesim eti pimachihew. The amiskwacîwâskahikan/Beaver Hills House/Edmonton iteration, Mamanaw Pekiskwewina | Mother Tongues: amiskwacîwâskahikan, is curated by Cheyenne Rain LeGrande ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ for Latitude 53 and supported by TRUCK Contemporary Art.

Featured work by: Edna Elias, Cikwes, Chubby Cree, Lauren Crazybull, Taran Kootenhayoo, Maria-Margaretta, jaye simpson, Wanahae.

*Mamanaw Pekiskwewina: amiskwacîwâskhikan |
Mother Tongues continued*



Ancestral Sounds, Performance by Cikwes and Chubby Cree

ARTIST TALKS | JULY 21 & 28

Cheyenne Rain LeGrande ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ hosted virtual Artist Talks with a few of the Artists in the exhibition. This included: Edna Elias, Carol Powder and Cikwes on July 21 and Lauren Crazybull, Maria-Margaretta and jaye simpson on July 28.

ANCESTRAL SOUNDS | CLOSING RECEPTION | SEPTEMBER 19

LOCATION: ROOT 107

Curated by Cheyenne Rain LeGrande ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ, Ancestral Sounds was a performance night which showcased Indigenous languages and voices of amiskwacîwâskahikan. It was an evening of Indigenous music, story telling, and dance. It featured: Billy Joe Laboucan, Rod Alexis, Carol Powder, Cikwes, Ayla Modeste & Tammy Rae



Ayiwinisa Fashion Show, Designer: Evan Ducharme, Photo credit: Rashelle Campbell

AYIWINISA FASHION SHOW | OCTOBER 2

LOCATION: BEAVER HILL HOUSE PARK

Curated by Cheyenne Rain LeGrande ᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ, Ayiwinisa featured four Indigenous designers: Heather Crowshoe Couture, Luxx Ready to Wear, Evan Ducharme, and Mobilize. It was a showcase celebrating Indigenous Fashion and ancestral Indigenous languages with music provided by Hood Joplin.

Elsa Robinson: Sankofa

JUNE 18 – SEPTEMBER 25, 2021



A bird, its head turned backwards, carrying a precious egg in its mouth. In order to move forward, we always look backwards. “*Sankofa*”, from the Akan Twi and Fante languages of Ghana, means to go back and get something. Elsa Robinson’s *Sankofa* explores the theme of spirituality through the artist’s experiences and research. Robinson’s three installations reflect past and present through a combination of natural fibres and artificial materials, working in the tradition of Feminist art, and techniques handed down from her mother: sewing, crochet, and embroidery.

With a spirit of improvisation, Elsa Robinson places herself in dialogue with sources of liberation in traditional Jamaican and African spirituality, the traditions of women in her culture, and the joyful liberatory traditions of the African Diaspora.

“Spirit is One. Making art that speaks from Spirit moves us beyond the illusionary ‘barriers’ of division and touches all our hearts.”

- Elsa Robinson



WORKSHOPS @ ROOT 107 | JULY 24, 31 AND AUGUST 7

This summer Latitude collaborated with Downtown Live to facilitate three free workshops with Elsa Robinson at Root 107.

PERFORMANCE BY ELSA & CLOSING RECEPTION | SEPTEMBER 25

Closing off the exhibiton Elsa gave a ceremonial performance that engaged audience members in a dance duet with Elsa accompanied by drumming.

The Garage



Kiona Ligtvoet: *These Are the Things*

APRIL 9 – JUNE 19, 2021



Kiona Ligtvoet's solo exhibition in the Garage, *These Are the Things* explores Ligtvoet's non-linear means of storytelling, drawing from memory, writings and photographs. Kiona describes the work as "a gentle attempt at navigating intergenerational barriers to grief, tenderness and longing, in the presence of enfranchisement and personal displacement".

These Are the Things takes the form of an installation of paintings with an assortment of "nostalgic objects", and writing by Paxsi who joined Ligtvoet later this spring for a gift-giving workshop—a moment to remember missed homes and families through a virtual collaboration.



COLLABORATIVE GIFTING WORKSHOP WITH PAXSI | MAY 29

Kiona Ligtvoet and Paxsi held a virtual workshop for displaced folks who missed home. They explored gifting as physical visiting while we can't actually visit our relations in the way we would like to. It was an open space for chatting about home, sharing stories, via discord while working on small gifts (postcards, letters, beading, drawing) for participants to send home to their love ones or each other.

Mika Haykowsky: Superspreader

OPEN STUDIO: JULY 3–AUGUST 13

EXHIBITION: AUGUST 14–SEPTEMBER 25, 2021



Mika describes “Superspreader” as “a visual, tactile and research-based exploration of intimacy, barriers between bodies, and public healing”. Their sprawling practice includes drawing, installation, and video, and their plans suggest a “colourful and mercurial landscape” evolving in the space throughout the studio period.

Mika continues to be fascinated by the ways that the last year plus has affected our conception of space-making and the ways that we suspend and restrain the body. This project asks: “What do these new and imposed public barriers, shields, and masks inflict on our nervous system as they restrict physical contact from others?...How can I portray these feelings of stretched isolation and the vastness of our bodies?”

Nominated by peer artist and collaborator Liam Mackenzie, Haykowsky is inspired by connections built and embodied through long-distance digital intimacy, and the altered sense of time that the past year has produced. Mackenzie joined Mika for studio sessions during the July residency session, and their photographic collaboration was included in this show.



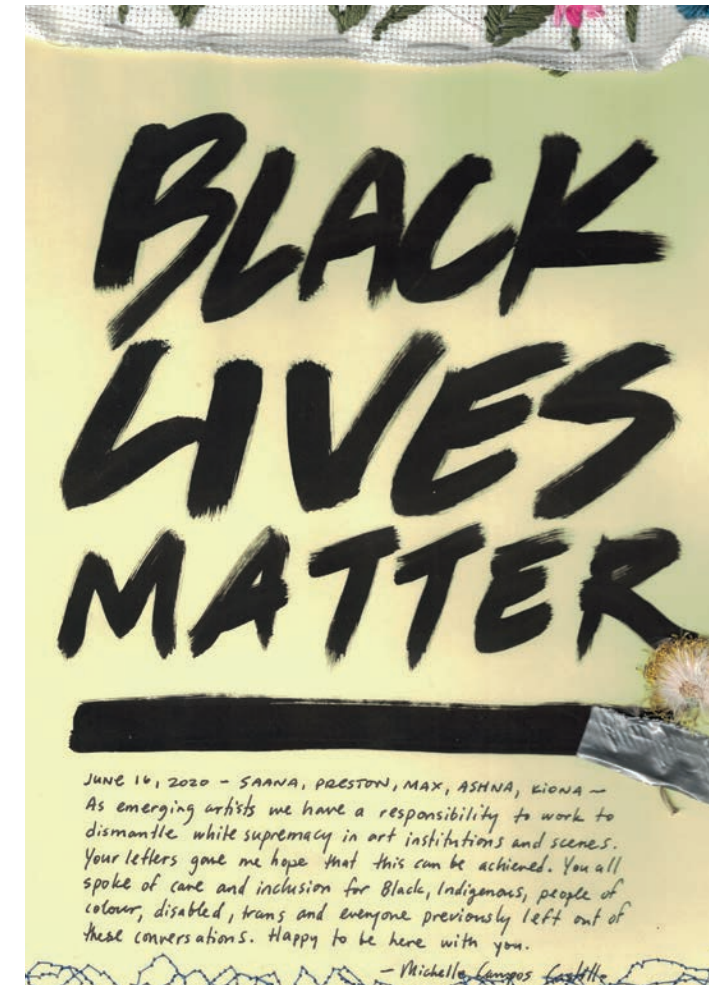
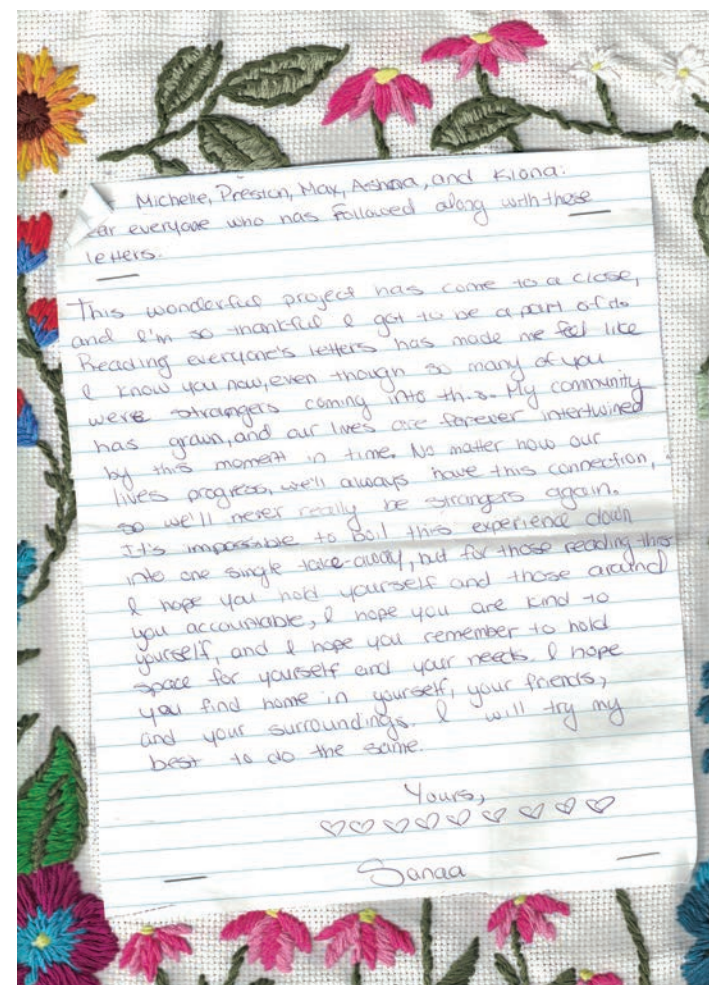
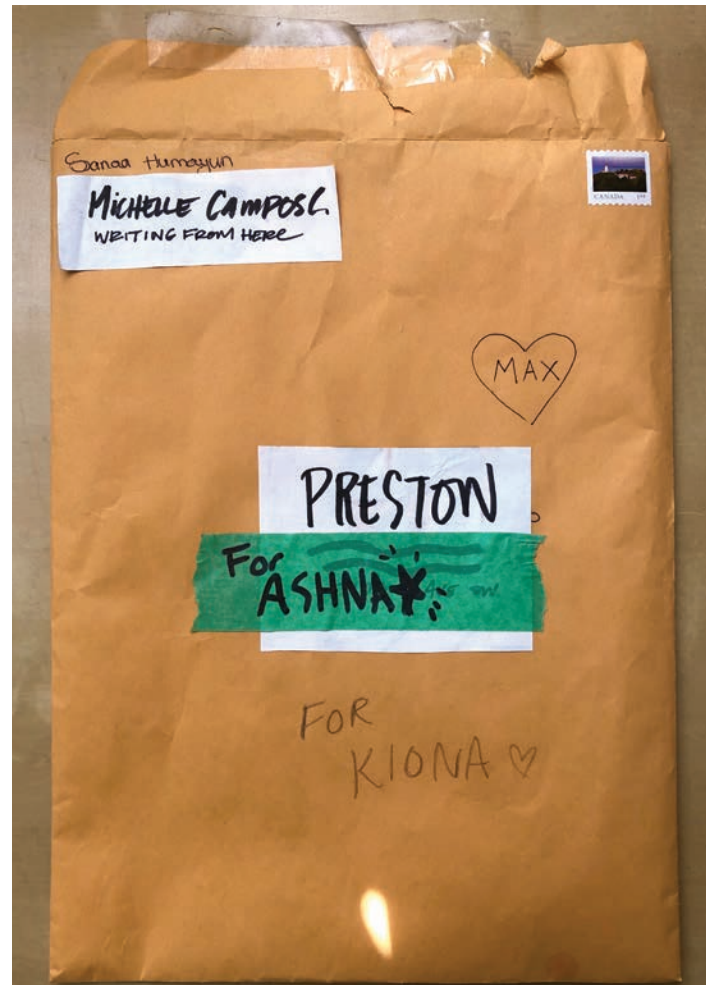
“KNITTING-CIRCLE” STYLE WORKSHOP WITH BREANNA BARRINGTON | SEPTEMBER 4

Mika Haykowsky and Breanna Barrington held an in-person workshop for participants to share stories of shameless bragging or joyless grief while weaving together knots and spinning tales.

Collaborative Programming

Writing From Here (writingfromhere.ca)

MAY 2020 – FEBRUARY 2021



Latitude 53 and the Mitchell Art Gallery partnered to commission a series of personal letters by and for emergent artists in Edmonton. The purpose of these letters was to explore the critical issues of community, connection, and artists' relationships to both from local, personal and interpersonal viewpoints. Letters were released as they were written and responded to in real time. These final letters were sent between May 2020 and February 2021 by the six original writers titled as Community Calls to Action.

With the outbreak of COVID-19 and the need for social distancing, community and connection are more needed than ever and the project has continued to expand. In Writing From Here II each artist extended an invitation to a community member to write a letter to help expand the sharing of ideas, as we all process ways to nurture connection at a physical distance.

Participating Writers included: Sanaa Humayun, Michelle Campos Castillo, Preston Pavlis, Ashna Jacob, Kiona Ligtoet and Max Elwood.

Art From Here (artfromhere.ca)

NOVEMBER 5, 2020 – ONGOING



Matthew Cardinal, Untitled (2020).

Art From Here is a collaborative project involving Latitude 53, The Mitchell Art Gallery, Ociciwan Contemporary Art Collective & SNAP Gallery that recognizes the importance of nurturing ongoing relationships with artists and within the arts community.

Art From Here brings focus to artists who are making work, or thinking about how to make, or not make, work, for and in this unprecedented environment, addressing community, collaboration, isolation, anxiety, technology, pressures of productivity, illness and care. Art From Here was initially supported by the Edmonton Arts Council and Edmonton Community Foundation's Digital Arts Fund.

Participating artists include: AJA Loudon, Braxton Garneau, Matthew Cardinal, Alma Louise Visscher, Taryn Kneteman, Dwayne Martineau, Wei Li and Allison Tunis.

Featured Writers: Aukje Kapteyn, Lauren Crazybull, Taissa, aAron Munson and Steven Harris

Book Club with Sanaa Humayun & Megan Gnanasihamany

MARCH 2 – 23, 2021



Megan Gnanasihamany and Latitude 53's Digital Program Coordinator, Sanaa Humayun held a virtual book club on Jackie Wang's essay "Against Innocence: Race, Gender and the Politics of Safety" from her book *Carceral Capitalism*.

In this collection of essays in Semiotext(e)'s Intervention series, Jackie Wang examines the contemporary incarceration techniques that have emerged since the 1990s. The essays illustrate various aspects of the carceral continuum, including the biopolitics of juvenile delinquency, predatory policing, the political economy of fees and fines, cybernetic governance, and algorithmic policing. Included in this volume is Wang's influential critique of liberal anti-racist politics, "Against Innocence," as well as essays on RoboCop, techno-policing, and the aesthetic problem of making invisible forms of power legible.

Events

Over the past year Latitude 53 has presented film screenings, book launches, livestreams and other in-person and virtual events to foster a sense of community in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

THE MATRIX FILM SCREENING ON DISCORD

September 5, 2020

For a short time we had Saturdays on Discord, beginning with a free film screening and discussion of The Matrix.

The Matrix, along with other films by the Wachowski's have been influential to Mark Clintberg's exhibition Portal. In works in Portal, Clintberg references Lana Wachowski's quote, "... so that this world that we imagine in this room might be used to gain access to other rooms, to other worlds previously unimaginable."

CASUAL ENCOUNTERS—CATALYST BOOK LAUNCH VIRTUAL PANEL

September 5, 2021

On zoom we hosted an open discussion and artists talk co-hosted by Cindy Baker with contributors of the book, Casual Encounters—Catalyst.

Speakers included : Richard Boulet, Michelle Lacombe, Aaron McIntosh, Mary-Anne McTrowe, Veronika Merklein, Mikiki, Christine Negus, Shanell Papp, Kristin Rodier, Stefanie Snider

BLINDMAN X LATITUDE 53: DWAYNE MARTINEAU PRE-LAUNCH

September 11, 2021

We hosted a pre-launch of a special limited edition beer collaboration with Blindman Brewery and past Art From Here artist Dwayne Martineau. Each frame from the video "What I Did On My Summer Vacation" was printed on one of 1500 limited edition bottles of Five Mile Rustic Saison, with a QR code linking to the video.

LITFEST: CANADA'S ORIGINAL NONFICTION FESTIVAL

October 14-24, 2021

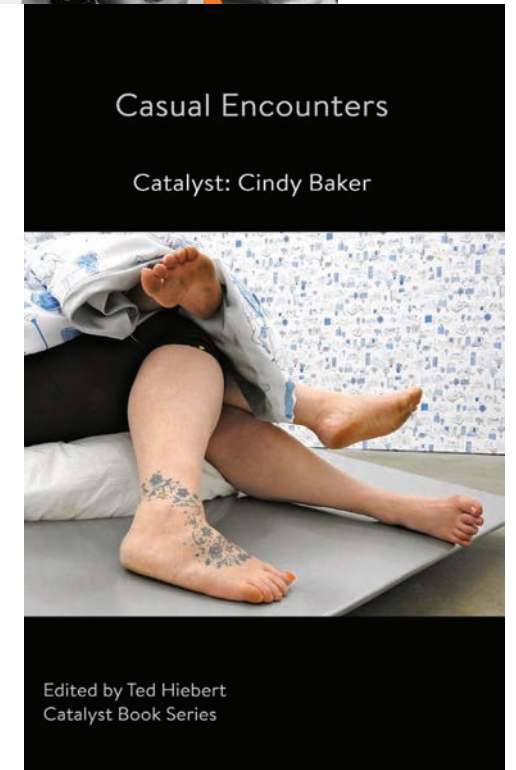
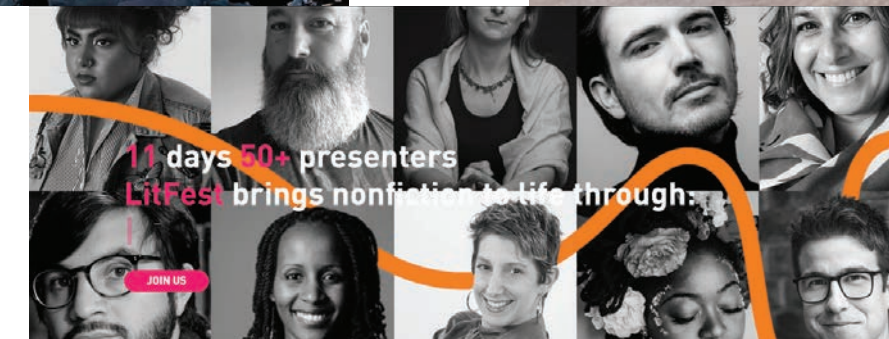
This year we partnered with LitFest: Canada's Original Nonfiction Festival as their home base for their in-person events. One event included Words from the wise: Poetry from Community Leaders. Litfest partnered with the Edmonton Poetry Festival, and it was hosted by Edmonton Poetry Festival's artistic producer, Shima Robinson aka Dwennimmen. Presenters included Rayanne Haines and Jason Purcell.

BLINDMAN X LATITUDE 53 "EXQUISITE CORPSE" BEER LAUNCH

December 3, 2021

The launch of another limited edition beer collaboration with Blindman Brewery, this time featuring three local Artists: Ashna Jacob, Halie Finney and Michelle Campos Castillo.

Like the experimental blend, we invited these three artists to play the game Exquisite Corpse. Ashna, Halie and Michelle collaborated on the label design, the Blindman crew and barrel fleet brought a mélange of beers – Belgian saison and French oak and German goes and American oak and more.



Bookshop



This year, we expanded our bookshop to add books and international art magazines including Frieze, Artforum, Art in America, ArtReview and Elephant, as well as books from Brooklyn publisher Paper Monument.



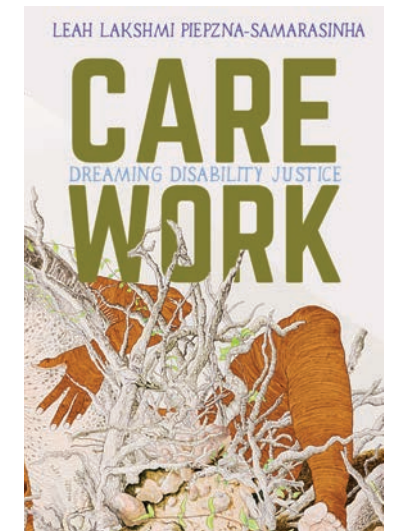
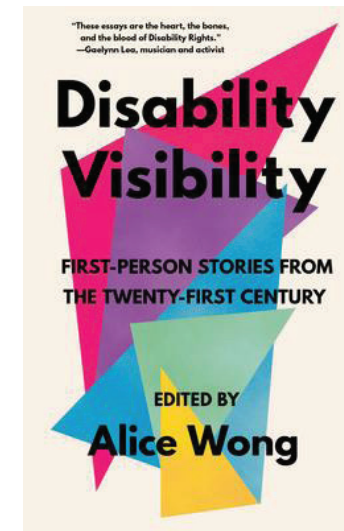
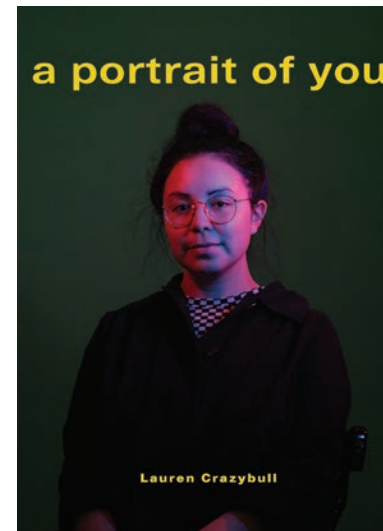
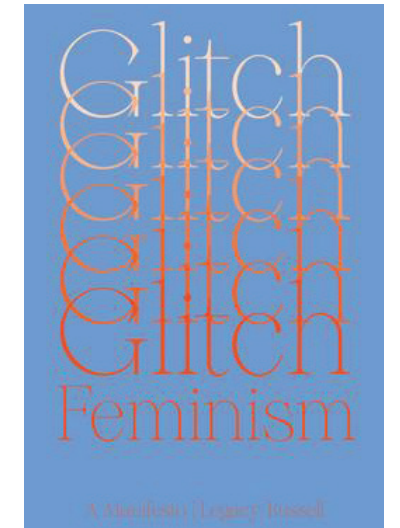
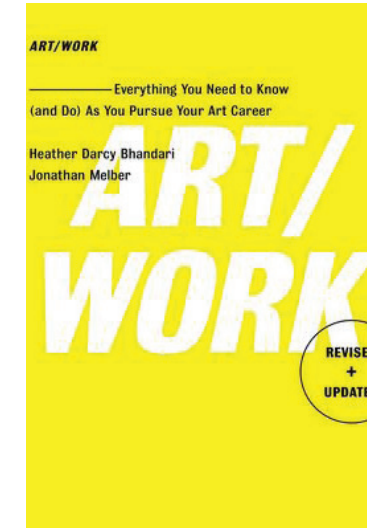
We also launched the second in a collaborative puzzle series between Latitude 53 and Glass Bookshop featuring artists with a connection to Latitude 53. This 1000 piece puzzle features Lauren's painting Power & Vulnerability (2019).

Lauren Crazybull is a Niitsítapi, Dené painter. In her work, Crazybull interrogates how Indigenous identities have been historically represented and understood through visual culture. Working primarily in portraiture, a long-standing genre that is often embedded with an imbalance of power between the artist/viewer and sitter, Crazybull seeks to examine the relationship between herself as an artist and the individuals she paints. Through this ongoing work, Lauren uses her work as a way to assert her own humanity, and advocate, in diverse and subtle ways, for the innate intellectual, spiritual, creative and political fortitude of Indigenous peoples.

A Haphazard Handbook of Artists & Organizers across Chinatowns
Edited by Florence Yee

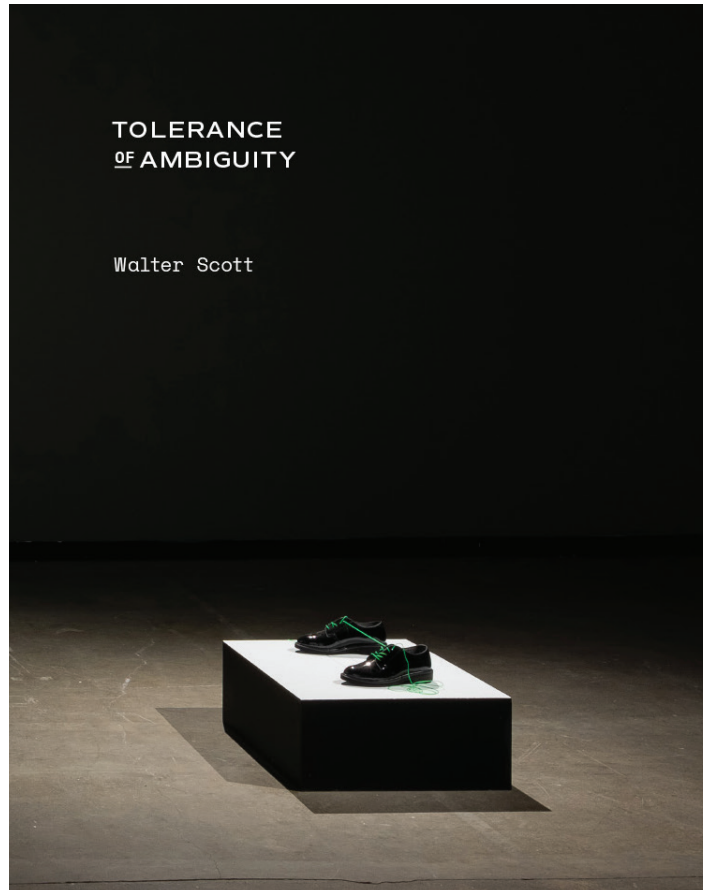


a Tea Base project



As always, a special thank you to Jason Purcell and Matthew Stepanic from Glass Bookshop for stocking our shelves with the latest and greatest works by LGBTQ2SIA and BIPOC writers.





Walter Scott | *Tolerance of Ambiguity*

With text by Walter Scottt
Design: Jessica Tang Design

The works in this exhibition are situated between the reality of their presence and the documentation of them. This is partially because of a global pandemic, where nobody but the installer will see them in person. But also, the auto-biographical qualities of the works suspended them between fact and fiction.



Elise Rasmussen | *The Year Without A Summer*

With texts by Brittany Gergel
Design: Matthew Brownoff

Using the historical framework of the 1815 eruption of Mount Tambora and Mary Shelley’s writing of *Frankenstein* a year later, “The Year Without a Summer” re-examines the effects of this environmental anomaly, finding parallels with our current climate crises. The film intertwines diaristic accounts of Mary Shelley and her circle, Sumbawan folklore, and Rasmussen’s own reflections traveling to the same volcano and lake during the hottest summer on record.



Mark Clintberg | *Portal*

With texts by Crystal Mowry & Kevin Allen
Design: Jessica Tang Design

Mark Clintberg’s exhibition *Portal* uses installation, textiles, works on paper and other materials to approach the archive as a queer portal for intellectual, erotic, and sensory encounter. Here, the archive can be thought of as a physical place for research, and a discursive space created through dialogue and relationship.



Mamanaw Pekiskwewina | amiskwaciwâskahikan | U<d''' Gifts of Art

With texts by Cheyenne Rain LeGrande PΓ<↳ & Emily Riddle
Design: Michelle Campos Castillo

Curated by Cheyenne Rain LeGrande PΓ<↳, Mamanaw Pekiskwewina | Mother Tongues: amiskwaciwâskahikan is a celebration of the ancestral languages of Treaty 6. These ancestral languages were embedded across the downtown core in amiskwaciwâskahikan. Visibility is powerful and to have the living languages which come from this land be seen in the midst of an urban environment speaks to the resilience and the survival of our people and languages.

Schmoozy 2020



Thank you to all of the generous artists and musicians who participated in Schmoozy:

Zachary Ayotte
Cindy Baker
Raneece Buddan
Kasie Campbell
Michelle Campos Castillo
Gabriel Esteban Molina
Braxton Garneau
Micah Haykowsky
Sanaa Humayun

Kiona Ligtoet
Kim McCollum
Anica Neiman
Emmanuel Osahor
Cheyenne Rain LeGrande
Mustafa Rafiq & Bhuyash
Neupane
DJ Junior Brown
Wara Wara

And thank you to our sponsors & partners:



Thank you to the Schmoozy committee members for all of their work on the event:

Max Amerongen
Daria Nordell
Jeff Klassen
Danny Ross

Volunteers

To the following individuals for your generous and invaluable contributions to Latitude 53 over the course of the last year...

Jamie-Lee Girodat	Garrett Rosser
Jeraldine Chong	Abbie Giesbrecht
SungEun Cho	Zana Wensel
Simone Halliday-Shaw	Bani Dang
Zana Wensel	Marina Fridman
Darren Kooyman	Maya Lara

thank you

Supporters

We would like to thank the following individuals for their dedicated support of Latitude 53 over the course of the last year...

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Programming & Projects



The Garage



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10242 - 106 Street
amiskwaciwâskahikan
Edmonton, AB, Canada
T5J 1H7
info@latitude53.org
780.423.5353

Lauren Crazybull, Niitakahkayi (2021), Language: Nitsiipowahsiin
Location: Great West Saddlery Building, 10137 - 104 Street

LATITUDE53