



MACKENZIE ART GALLERY
MUSÉE D'ART MACKENZIE

mackenzie.art

INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL SCHOOL TOURS at the MacKenzie Art Gallery

An exciting opportunity for students and educators to explore our histories and engage in today's most urgent issues with Saskatchewan's largest public art gallery – without leaving your classroom!



Images (Top to bottom): Sandra Semchuk and James Nicholas, *Poundmaker's garden*, 2004 4 lightjet photographs, 76.2 x 95.3 cm each. Sandra Semchuk and James Nicholas, *stolen strength*, 2007, lightjet photograph, 76.2 x 95.3 cm.

BOOK YOUR TOUR TODAY

Book online or call May Ngui, Visitor Services Coordinator

E mngui@mackenzie.art T 306 584 4250 EXT 4257

Nicole Little, Program Assistant

E nlittle@mackenzie.art T 306 584 4250 EXT 4292

Book online at mackenzie.art/learn

MacKenzie Art Gallery

3475 Albert Street

Regina, SK

S4S 6X6 Canada



ENGAGE WITH ART

Engagement with art supports the building of curiosity, empathy, collaboration, and communication. Our interactive virtual tours will encourage your students to participate in complex and critical conversations around important issues and histories that shape our shared communities. Choose from a selection of curriculum linked, age appropriate interactive tours and art workshops and let art be at the heart of your classroom learning.

ABOUT THE VIRTUAL TOURS

Our school tours offer students the opportunity to explore the gallery virtually with a specially-trained facilitator. The tour includes:

- 75 minute tours can be booked for classes of up to 45 students
- Includes a teacher resource and lesson plan for a required hands-on pre-activity
- The cost is \$156/class
- For grades 4 through 12

FEATURED EXHIBITION

lthin-eh-wuk—we place ourselves at the center: James Nicholas and Sandra Semchuk

28 JANUARY – 16 MAY 2021

HOW CAN WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER BETTER THROUGH ART?

Explore the meaning of a loving discourse and intercultural collaboration through this exhibition of two prairie artists, Sandra Semchuk and James Nicholas. Working through themes of reconciliation, identity, culture, and togetherness, Semchuk and Nicholas collaborated to create videos, photography, poetry, and story.



James Nicholas, director / Sandra Semchuk, videographer, editor, *peuk nepi — meeting waterwoman*, 2004, single channel video, 5:16.

TOUR OUTCOMES

- Students will learn about the effects of colonialism through the lens of intercultural collaboration and dialogue.
- Students will examine storytelling through multiple mediums, exploring the artists' poetry, photography, and video work.



ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

FEATURED EXHIBITION

Ithin-eh-wuk—we place ourselves at the center: James Nicholas and Sandra Semchuk

28 JANUARY - 16 MAY 2021
SCHOOL TOURING DATES

CURATED BY
TIMOTHY LONG

ORGANIZED BY
THE MACKENZIE ART GALLERY

For fifteen years, Nicholas and Semchuk collaborated on a series of nationally exhibited photo installations and videos which unveil the mindset and effects of colonialism through the lens of their remarkable intercultural marriage. This exhibition brings together for the first time a comprehensive selection of their collaborations, tracing their creative output from their initial meeting in 1993 until Nicholas's accidental death in 2007. Their work reveals a profound commitment to dialogue in which Semchuk's identity as the child of Ukrainian-Canadian settlers from Saskatchewan meets Nicholas's experiences as a Rock Cree man from Manitoba.

The title of the exhibition is taken from the 2005 installation *understoryoverstory*, a set of 15 photographs of an abandoned road in northern Saskatchewan, one that was originally built by Cree workers under the direction of Semchuk's father, Martin. While in the accompanying texts Semchuk reflects on her father's respect for the Cree even as he opened their land to exploitation, Nicholas responds with forceful poetry about the rights of itthin-eh-wuk, his people:

listen, acknowledge that we exist
we are not shadows of shadow cultures
we have inherent rights to the land our laws of being itthin-eh-wuk
we place ourselves at the center



James Nicholas and Sandra Semchuk, *understoryoverstory*, 2004-2005, 15 lightjet photographs, 76.2 x 95.3 cm each.

[CLICK HERE](#)
For further information,
including teacher resources.



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The questions Nicholas and Semchuk ask of each other are personal, at times humorous, at other times painful. As Semchuk notes, they recognized that their relationship was “an opportunity to make political, social and psychological structures created by histories of colonialism, occupation of the land, and racism visible to ourselves and others through our art practice.” Whether dealing with the marginalization of Ukrainian-Canadian settlers or Nicholas’s experiences as a residential school survivor, the effort is always, in Semchuk’s words, “to recognize the truths in each other’s stories.” At the same time the works embrace a “wider-than-human” context by honouring the land, plants, and animals that ground their stories.

Responding to their collaborative work in the exhibition *Moving Forward, Never Forgetting* (2015), Métis artist and curator David Garneau writes, “Despite their differences (bodies, genders, nations), these artists share a profound togetherness. Semchuk is clearly present in these images in a way that was acceptable to Nicholas. He appears to not only feel safe but welcomes their collaboration, their shared agency, the opportunity to make the personal public. Folks I talked with felt this as articulating a deep sense of conciliation.” Put another way, their collaborations are love stories that open us to an honest and compassionate consideration of who is in the centre and who is not.”

Curated by Timothy Long, the exhibition will include over a dozen photo-installations plus a selection of videos. A publication featuring contributions by Dana Claxton, David Garneau, Elwood Jimmy, Andrea Kunard, and Althea Thauberger will address their work and the intercultural sharing which informed their practice.

[CLICK HERE](#)
For further information,
including teacher resources.



James Nicholas and Sandra Semchuk, *Being Mom*, 2007-2009, 4 lightjet photographs, 50.8 x 61.0 cm each.



CONNECTIONS TO CROSS-CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES

CROSS-CURRICULAR COMPETENCY TO DEVELOP THINKING

The gallery experience:

Confronts students with multiple contexts that shape artistic practice and experience.

Allows students to understand the creativity of others, inspiring their own creativity.

The gallery methodology challenges students to critically engage with works of art through peer discussion, analysis, and interpretation.

CROSS-CURRICULAR COMPETENCY TO DEVELOP IDENTITY AND INTERDEPENDENCE:

The gallery experience:

Introduces students to artists who explore their individual and collective identities through a variety of artistic contexts.

Engages students with art objects, which affect students' senses, thinking skills, memory, and identity.

Teaches students the cultural and environmental responsibilities of artists as well as their own individual impact.

CLICK HERE

For further information, including teacher resources.

CROSS-CURRICULAR COMPETENCY TO DEVELOP LITERACIES:

The gallery methodology stimulates students to reflect on visual literacy through peer discussion, interpretation, and analysis.

The gallery experience introduces students to new visual literacies, inspiring students to create art and conversations with their new knowledge.

CROSS-CURRICULAR COMPETENCY TO DEVELOP IDENTITY AND INTERDEPENDENCE:

In addition to the exploration of art objects, the gallery experience offers a space for social context, engagement, and change.

The gallery experience supports the role of artists and students as socially responsible leaders in our city, province, and country.

KEY CURRICULUM CONNECTION:

English Language Arts, Grades 4-12. The CR(x).1 outcome for all grade levels involves taking in, comprehending, and responding to multiple mediums of texts that deal with issues of identity, social responsibility, and depending on the grade level either community or social action. Some grade levels also require that these texts include works by Indigenous artists. This exhibition will feature stories told through photography, poetry, and videos, as a collaboration between an artist of Cree heritage and an artist of Ukrainian-Canadian heritage. All of the themes required above will be addressed in this exhibition.

CORE FUNDERS



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