

21 Exhibition - Biographies

Cheryl L'Hirondelle

Cheryl L'Hirondelle (aka Waynohtêw, Cheryl Koprek) is an Alberta born but currently a Vancouver based, halfbreed (Metis/Cree-non status/treaty, French, German, Polish) multi/interdisciplinary artist. Since the early 80's she has created, performed, collaborated and presented work in a variety of artistic disciplines: performance art, music (voice, percussion, songwriter, arranger, producer), theatre (actor, writer), performance poetry, storytelling, installation art (site-specific, earthworks) video and new media (net.art, pirate radio, audio art). Since the early 90's she has also worked as an arts programmer, cultural strategist/activist, arts consultant, facilitator/coordinator, administrator, assessor, workshop and sessional instructor and director/producer independently and within the national artist-run network, national independent music industry, various educational institutions, first nations bands, tribal councils and government agencies (provincial & federal) in this land now known as Canada.

Her practice is an investigation of the intersection of cree worldview (nêhiyawin) and the inter/multidisciplinarity of creative expression inherent in other indigenous, world and youth cultures. As part of this investigation, L'Hirondelle develops performative physical durances, infiltrations and interventions, site-specific installations, interactive net.art projects [www.ndnrkey.net] and keeps singing, making rhythm, dancing and telling stories whenever and where ever she can. Cheryl also is part of the acapella/percussion group My Girl, an Aboriginal Women's Ensemble (with Renae Morriseau, Sheila Maracle, Tiare Laporte), still performs with her singing duo Nikamok, backs up (percussion, vocals) Metis singer/songwriter Arlette Alcock and occasionally performs with Metis jiggging troupe Compagnie Vni Dansi (Yvonne Chartrand, Artistic Director). Cheryl was recently appointed as an Associate Researcher with SmartLab, London, UK.

Divya Mehra

Divya Mehra is a multimedia artist who is currently attending Columbia University to complete her MFA. She obtained her BFA degree, with Honours, from the University of Manitoba's School of Art. In her work she attempts to explore the unease and struggles she encounters being brought up as a young Indian, and as a young Canadian. She often addresses issues of gender, race, identity and sexuality through her split-existence. Her work has been included in a number of exhibitions and screenings in Canada.

Jayce Salloum

Jayce Salloum's video work exists within and between the very personal, local and the transnational. It aligns itself with social and political struggles through an intimate subjectivity and discursive challenge. He has worked in installation photography, drawing, performance, text and video since 1975, as well as curating exhibitions, conducting workshops and coordinating cultural projects. A media arts philosopher and cultural activist, his work critically engages itself in the perception of social manifestations and political realities. Salloum has lectured worldwide and has exhibited at the widest range of local and international venues possible, from the smallest unnamed storefronts and community centres to institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Canada; Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Rotterdam International Film Festival; CaixaForum, Barcelona; 8th Havana Biennial and the 7th Sharjah Biennial. His texts have appeared in many journals such as Third Text, Documents, Framework, Fuse, Felix, Mix, Public, Pubic Culture and Semiotext(e). His most recent essay, "sans titre/untitled: the video installation as an active archive" is forthcoming in *Projecting Migration: Transcultural Documentary Practice* (Wallflower Press: London, 2007, dist. Columbia Univ. Press), as well as in *The Modern Art Reader Series*, Whitechapel Gallery, London. In 2006 his work was featured in the 15th Biennale of Sydney and in a solo installation at the Museum Villa Stuck, Munich.

Camille Turner

Camille Turner is a Toronto-based media/performance artist and cultural producer. She is a founding member of Year Zero One, a media arts collective which acts as a network for the dissemination of net.art and digital culture. She has presented her collaborative projects, community engagements, public performance and digital interventions at venues such as: Dak'art lab 2004, La Biennale de l'art African contemporain, Senegal and Skinning our Tools: Designing for Context and Culture at the Banff New Media Institute. She was a visiting artist at Interaktions-Labor, an experimental media arts research lab in an abandoned coal mine in Gottelborn, Germany and The Container Project, a mobile media arts lab in a shipping container in rural Jamaica initiated by Mervin Jarman from the (h)activist collective Mongrel. Camille was recently artist-in-residence at Central Neighbourhood House, a social agency in downtown east Toronto.

Gabriel Yahyahkeekoot

Gabriel Yahyahkeekoot is a multi-disciplinary artist, originally from Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation in Saskatchewan. Primarily a poet, Gabriel has been able to link his poetry into filmmaking, acting, radio, and magazine and live performance. Much of his work stems from his personal experiences in the city of Regina, the place he grew up and still calls home. His first video, *A Moment of Clarity* debuted in 2003 at the Independent Media Arts Alliance's annual national conference. This film was part of a collaborative group exhibition for the MacKenzie Art Galleries exhibition "That's My Wonderful Town" in Regina, and was later purchased by the MacKenzie for its permanent collection. His latest work, *Mayasitiw*, has been screened across Canada and was nominated for a Golden Sheaf Award at the Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival in 2005.

Curator

Elwood Jimmy is originally from the Thunderchild First Nation in west central Saskatchewan. Currently based in the city of Regina, he has been active in the national arts community as an artist, curator and administrator since the late 1990's. Previous experience has included director of the board of the Independent Media Arts Alliance, regional representative for the Plains Artist Run Centre Alliance, Administrator for Sakewewak Artists' Collective in Regina, Aboriginal Curator in Residence at the Godfrey Dean Art Gallery in Yorkton, and member of several committees organized by the Canada Council for the Arts, the Saskatchewan Arts Board, and the Manitoba Arts Council. Currently, he is the Southern Artistic Coordinator for Common Weal Community Arts, an organization that facilitates collaborative projects between communities and professional artists.

Some of Elwood's past projects include *Our Stories Our Lives* (2000), a collaborative video project hosted by Common Weal Community Arts; *Lateral Threats* (2002), a performance with collaborator Elvina Piapot presented by Neutral Ground Artist-Run Centre; co-organizing *Nation 54* (2003), a national media arts symposium; *Urban Renewal* (2003), a curated screening and talk presented at the Stony Mountain Penitentiary; *Exempt* (2004), a video installation with collaborator Lynn Acoose, presented by the Dunlop Art Gallery; *Poundmaker's Garden* (2005), an exhibition featuring the work of Sandra Semchuk and James Nicholas presented by the Godfrey Dean Art Gallery; and the exhibition *Transition/Transaction* (2007), presented by Ace Art in Winnipeg.