

### Welcome

Welcome to Carleton University and the 9th Annual New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts: Something Else Again! As in the past, we acknowledge with gratitude the hospitality of the Algonquin people on whose traditional unceded territory we gather today.

This year's theme, "Something Else Again!", is in part self-referential, highlighting the distinctly hybrid character of the New Sun Conference as it has evolved: it is less formal than a conventional scholarly conference, yet more academic than a traditional cultural festival. It is "Something Else Again!" Drawing from both indigenous and western pedagogical traditions, the Conference strives to be entertaining, educational, communal, and inspiring.

Implicit in the theme, "Something Else Again!" is the spirit of creative renewal that continues to enliven Aboriginal communities, never failing to surprise and uplift. Most assuredly, fusion and fluidity of concepts and identities affirm a vibrant contemporary indigenous culture.

Intrinsic to the New Sun Conference is the notion of spiritual space, cleansed and purified with sweetgrass and sage. It is a safe and welcoming space, an intimate space, where stories are recounted, life journeys shared, artistic acts explored, and creativity demystified (or not!). It is a space where personal and cultural narratives never fail to penetrate the arbitrary and artificial boundaries that often separate us. It is an inclusive space. It is a nourishing and hopeful space.

Nourishment comes in many forms. Over the years, the gourmet luncheon of Aboriginal cuisine has become an increasingly important component of the Conference, allowing both presenters and guests to share a meal together, socialize, establish and reactivate connections, and reflect on the morning's presentations. The luncheon also affords an opportunity to enjoy an exclusive musical performance by an acclaimed Aboriginal artist, again in close and intimate surroundings.

Diversity of artistic activity has always been a hallmark of the New Sun Conference. A mix of writers, musicians, visual artists, film makers (and even chefs) yields a rich and engaging conversation. One is invariably struck by the wealth of creativity that exists within Aboriginal communities. For some, this is a revelation. For everyone, it is a celebration. No less important than diversity is the mix of gender, experience, and representation from First Nations, Metis, Inuit and non-Native communities.

Finally, as the New Sun Conference has evolved so has its aesthetic presence, in both print and web media. This is appropriate to both the event, and the people and communities it honours.

#### THE 2010 CONFERENCE

In 2007, the theme of the 6th Annual New Sun Conference was "Survivance: More than Mere Survival." The individual responsible for injecting the concept of "survivance" into the discourse on contemporary Aboriginal experience, while radically refiguring the field of Aboriginal literature and storytelling, is internationally renowned author, Gerald Vizenor, who is with us today. Also present is Christi Belcourt who both honours and perpetuates the artistry of traditional Metis floral bead workers in her lush and intricately painted canvases -- no more so than in her magnificent mural, My Heart (Is Beautiful), which she has generously loaned us for the Conference. Rounding out the slate of morning presenters is Manon Barbeau, Directrice of the innovative and hugely successful Wapikoni Mobile film and video making program, which introduces numerous Aboriginal youth to new possibilities of artistic expression. Film maker Abraham Cote, a graduate of the Wapikoni program, joins Manon today. Following the luncheon break, Navajo printmaker Marwin Begaye discusses his efforts to raise awareness of diabetes and other Aboriginal health issues through incisive and at times wickedly funny imagery in his powerful series, "What's Your Sugar?" A fitting conclusion to a day dedicated to the liberated indigenous imagination, and the free fusion of aesthetic traditions, is the presentation by singer, Tanya Tagaq who will also perform at the luncheon.

It promises to be an especially memorable day.

All my relations,

Allan J. Ryan

### Program 2010

#### 8:30 - 9:15

Registration Coffee/juice/muffins

#### 9:15 - 9:30

Welcome, Allan J. Ryan

New Sun Chair in Aboriginal Art and Culture

Opening prayer, ELDER JIM ALBERT

Welcoming remarks,
PAUL CHESSER,
Chief Development Officer, Carleton University

#### 9:30 - 10:20

CHRISTI BELCOURT, painter and author

#### 10:25 - 11:15

MANON BARBEAU, Directrice, Wapikoni Mobile film training project ABRAHAM COTE film maker

11:15 - 11:30 Nutrition Break

#### 11:30 - 12:20

GERALD VIZENOR, internationally renowned author

### Program 2010

#### 12:30 - 1:30

Buffet luncheon of Native cuisine, Fenn Lounge, Residence Commons

#### Menu:

- Bannock bread with maple butter and ground cherry compote
- · Red and wild rice salad with dried fruits
- · Pickled beets and pearl onion salad
- · Bitter greens salad
- Black garlic Yukon potato mash
- Honey glazed root vegetables and squash
- Venison, celery root and shitake mushroom ragout
- Clay salt rubbed salmon on a bed of julienne vegetables in a light saffron jus
- Berry fruit flan, pumpkin cheesecake (sugar-free)

#### 1:30 - 2:00

#### TANYA TAGAQ IN CONCERT,

with Jesse Zubot (violin) and Jean Martin (drums), Fenn Lounge

#### 2:20 - 3:10

MARWIN BEGAYE, visual artist, diabetes awareness advocate

#### 3:15 - 4:05

TANYA TAGAQ, throat singer/jazz-classic vocalist

#### 4:10 - 4:30

Concluding remarks, gift basket draw Closing prayer



### Christi Belcourt

Christi Belcourt is a self-taught artist and educator whose early interest in the floral beadwork patterns of Metis and First Nations women has led her on a journey of exploration into traditional Metis art, history, environmental concerns and contemporary issues encountered by the Metis in modern times. She has made an in-depth study of plants, especially the medicinal uses of traditional plants and is the author and illustrator of Medicines To Help Us: Traditional Metis Plant Use. In attempting to transfer beadwork to canvas she has developed a unique painting style where entire floral patterns are created in raised 'dots' that simulate beadwork. Her work has been commissioned by the Indian and Inuit Art Gallery, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Centre for Traditional Knowledge and the Museum of Nature. Her work is found in the permanent collections of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery and Canadian Museum of Civilization, First People's Hall. Christi is a past recipient of awards from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Chalmers Family Fund, and the Métis Nation of Ontario. Details of her 2009 floral mural, My Heart (Is Beautiful) – on display at the conference – are featured on the conference poster and printed program.

www.christibelcourt.com



### Manon Barbeau

Manon Barbeau has been a writer and filmmaker for over thirty years. Amongst many other projects she is the producer and general manager of the Wapikoni Mobile Corporation and Vidéo Paradiso, travelling video and music studios for Aboriginal communities and inner-city youth. Wapikoni Mobile was designed to give Aboriginal youth a chance to depict their world through film. The idea is to equip these young people with the skills to express, and be recognised for, their artistic talents. The programs were established in 2003 in collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada, the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador and the Atikamekw National Council. Since 2004, nearly 850 young Aboriginals have learned audiovisual techniques as part of Wapikoni Mobile and their work has been recognized internationally with thirty-one awards and prizes. As part of the World Exposition in Shanghai, China, Cirque du Soleil chose four films from Wapikoni Mobile to play continuously at the entrance to the Canadian Pavilion. Two films by Wapikoni Mobile directors were also selected as part of the motion picture programming for the Vancouver Olympics and were broadcast on towering high-definition screens in Vancouver and Whistler, on handheld devices and on computer monitors around the world during the games. Wapikoni Mobile has gone international as well, working with indigenous peoples in several countries including Brazil.

#### www.wapikoni.ca

photo: Timea Hajdrák



## Gerald Vizenor

Gerald Vizenor is Distinguished Professor of American Studies at the University of New Mexico, and Professor Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley. He is a prolific writer and author of more than thirty books in all literary genres, including poetry, drama, journalism, tribal history, cultural criticism and fiction. He is unafraid to prod and provoke his audience and has created his own complex lexicon to convey his view of Native America. He stands as the most original and critically acute of all Native American writers. Amongst many other publications, he is the author of The People Named the Chippewa: Narrative Histories, and Manifest Manners: Narratives on Postindian Survivance. He won the American Book Award for Griever: An American Monkey King in China, and received a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Western Literature Association. His most recent publications include Fugitive Poses: Native American Indian Scenes of Absence and Presence, a collection of essays, Native Liberty, a novel, Father Meme, and a selection of poetry, Almost Ashore. Vizenor is series editor of "American Indian Literature and Critical Studies" for the University of Oklahoma Press, and with Diane Glancy, series editor of "Native Storiers: A Series of American Narratives" for the University of Nebraska Press.

A delegate to the White Earth Reservation Constitutional Convention for the past two years, in 2009 Vizenor was named Principal Writer of the New Constitution of the White Earth Nation in his home state of Minnesota.



# Marwin Begaye

A member of the Navajo Nation, Marwin Begaye is an Assistant Professor of Printmaking and Painting at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK, and a graduate of the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, the Institute of American Indian Art, and the University of Oklahoma. His work incorporates computer generated imagery and experimental mixed-media painting, while his research has concentrated on the issues of cultural identity, especially the intersection of traditional Native culture and pop culture. Though his primary concern is with making images, he regularly makes commitments to teach art to youth and has been a guest lecturer on Native culture, contemporary Native art and printmaking processes. Known for his use of satire to comment on social and political issues related to health and food, his recent focus has been on raising awareness about the epidemic of diabetes in Native communities. About the series, What's Your Sugar?, he says, "I hope that viewers will see their own actions are complicit in this disease. Each of us has a responsibility to make healthy choices. We often choose affordability and convenience over our health."

www.doi.gov/iacb/museums/archives/splains-archive-200607.html



# Tanya Tagad

Tanya Tagaq has been described as an extraordinary groundbreaking live performer, composer and improviser who makes throat singing sound fiercely contemporary, even futuristic. Ranging from whispers and haunting melodies to full-force passion and power she is able to move fluidly between genres. Her 2005 debut CD Sinaa ("edge" in Inuktitut) received three Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards including Best Female Artist. She has performed all over the world and collaborated with numerous contemporary musicians including Bjork and the Kronos Quartet. Her follow-up CD, Auk/Blood, from 2008 features many such collaborations. She comes to us here at the New Sun Conference following her performance in Vancouver as part of the Cultural Olympiad. She and her music are featured in the dramatic short film Tungijuq (a meditation on the place of the seal hunt in Inuit life) which was selected for screening at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival.

www.myspace.com/tagaq

# The New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts:

### BACKGROUNDER

Since its beginning in 2002, the New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts has brought together in a public forum individuals from various First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities, as well as the non-Native community. Presenters have included those with expertise in photography, painting, sculpture, film making, acting, musical performance, curating, arts education, literature and the culinary arts. Themes such as "healing through the arts," "transforming traditions," "engaging authenticity", and "inspiring resilience" have been explored in a collegial and communal atmosphere that encourages dialogue on important cultural and artistic issues. The conference honours, and seeks to raise public awareness of individuals whose work affirms contemporary Aboriginal experience and contributes to increased cross-cultural understanding. All conference presentations have been archived on video and DVD and can be borrowed from the Carleton University Library.

New Sun: Continuing the legacy of her father, who was given the honorary name of Old Sun in 1962 by the Blackfoot nation in Alberta, New Sun was given her name in 1993 by elders from the Blackfoot, Mohawk and Ojibwa nations at a special naming ceremony at Carleton University, to recognize her commitment to promoting Aboriginal culture and education across Canada.

Allan J. Ryan was appointed as the New Sun Chair in Aboriginal Art and Culture in 2001. The first of its kind in Canada, the Chair is situated in the School of Canadian Studies at Carleton. It was made possible through the support of the New Sun Fund, administered by the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

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> Mark your calendar for the 10th Anniversary New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts, Saturday, February 26, 2011.

### THANKS TO ALL THE PRESENTERS AND VOLUNTEERS AND THE FOLLOWING:

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