

**14th Annual**  
**New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts:**  
Life Lived Like a Story



**Saturday, February 28, 2015**  
**9:00 am - 4:30 pm • Room 5050, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor,**  
**Minto Centre, Carleton University**





# New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts

## Life Lived Like a Story

Kwey, tansi, she:kon, tunngasugitsi, bonjour, and welcome to the 14th Annual New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts: Life Lived Like a Story. As in the past, we acknowledge with gratitude the hospitality of the Algonquin people on whose traditional unceded territory we gather today.

For many indigenous peoples across Canada and beyond, this season of long nights and deep snow is reserved for storytelling, for telling tales steeped in imagination that affirm and reaffirm communal and familial connections to the land, to shared origins and histories, to shared values, identities and aspirations. At the heart of many such stories is a belief in the need to preserve and pass them on for the health and well being of future generations. In this, they constitute healing narratives. Is there anything more potent than a healing narrative? Is there any greater vocation than the production and voicing of healing narratives?

Today, we draw from this midwinter narrative tradition to recognize and share in the achievements of contemporary Indigenous storytellers whose tales of “survivance”, to cite the mixed-blood Anishinaabe writer Gerald Vizenor, imbue the physical and cultural landscape with a rich and vibrant Native presence. And we are all the better for this sharing as their stories intermingle with our own stories, the ones we bring with us, the ones we live every day, and together over the course of this day, we will create a multi-vocal communal story, one unique to this New Sun community, that you will get to take with you and relish and share as you wish.

In the Introduction to her seminal text, *Life Lived Like A Story*, written in collaboration with Yukon Native Elders, Angela Sidney, Kitty Smith and Annie Ned, anthropologist Julie Cruikshank states that storytelling may well be the oldest of the arts. It may well be the newest of the arts too. Storytelling’s adaptive and shapeshifting ability to both reflect, and reflect on an ever changing world is captured in microcosm in the range of artistic expression we are privileged to witness and experience today – in the stunning painted portraits and photo collages of George Littlechild that give renewed vitality to familial relations and honoured leaders; in Gloria Miguel’s rich remembrance and subversive writings that prove humour’s rapier ability to lay bare the truth while laying the groundwork for healing; in the short stories and midnight sweatlodge reflections of Waubgeshig Rice, inspired by elders

# Life Lived Like a Story

but filtered through a journalist's incisive quest for answers; in the myriad roles and identities assumed by Tiio Horn in a brave new world of independent film production, cable TV channels and Netflix series; and in the melodic ballads and blistering blues guitar licks that trace the world travels and private journeys of Raven Kanatakta and ShoShona Kish, the backbone and lifeblood of the musical life force that is Digging Roots. The theme of today's gathering can well be summed up in the mantra inscribed on the sleeve of their latest CD, *For the Light*, "Live your roots – Love your roots." Words to live by indeed!

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A defining characteristic of the New Sun Conference is generosity – expressed in President Runte's continued support for initiatives that affirm Carleton University's belief in the value of Indigenous ways of knowing and learning; it is expressed in Dr. John Osborne's unwavering encouragement and financial support for this conference throughout his decade-long tenure as Dean of Arts and Social Sciences (It is an exemplary commitment!); it is expressed in the number of people who have sponsored students who would otherwise not be able to attend. And of course, we are indebted to the generosity of the presenters who accepted my invitation to participate in what I promised would be a memorable midwinter experience. I have never been wrong. There is more to winter in the capital than skating on the canal!

On this day too we honour the extraordinary generosity and indomitable spirit of Joy Maclaren, New Sun, who passed away last November at the age of ninety two. Her support for Carleton, and especially this conference, have allowed us to celebrate so many Indigenous artists whose stories have touched and inspired us in ways too numerous and too profound to mention. And the celebration continues. Joy's spirit is most assuredly with us today, and this conference remains a vital part of her remarkable legacy.

Enjoy the day!

All my relations,

Allan J. Ryan



# New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts

## PROGRAM - 2015

- 8:30 - 9:15      Registration, Coffee/juice/muffins
- 9:15 - 9:40      Welcome, **Allan J. Ryan**,  
New Sun Chair in Aboriginal Art and Culture
- Opening prayer, Elder **Jim Albert**
- Honouring Joy Maclaren (New Sun)**
- Roseann O'Reilly Runte**, President, Carleton University  
**Jennifer Adese**, Assistant Professor, School of Canadian  
Studies, New Sun Visiting Aboriginal Scholar (2012-13)  
**Kahente Horn-Miller**, School of Canadian Studies  
New Sun Visiting Aboriginal Scholar (2014-15)  
**Allan J. Ryan**, School of Canadian Studies/ Dept. of Art  
History, New Sun Chair
- 9:45 - 10:30      **George Littlechild**, multi-media artist/educator
- 10:30 - 10:45      Nutrition Break
- 10:45 - 11:30      **Gloria Miguel**, Actress/playwright, founding member  
of Spiderwoman Theater
- 11:35 - 12:20      **Waubgeshig Rice**, Storyteller, CBC journalist
- 12:30 - 1:30      Buffet luncheon of Native cuisine,  
Fenn Lounge, Residence Commons

## PROGRAM - 2015

### Luncheon Menu:

- Warm bannock bread with rosemary apple butter\*
- Chicory and kale salad topped with goat cheese and pan sautéed mushrooms served with Saskatoon berry vinaigrette
- Root vegetable salad with Saskatoon berries tossed in poppy seed and wild honey vinaigrette
- Wild rice, roasted corn and charred tomato cooked in tomato jus
- Pan-seared salmon fillet dusted with porcini mushroom and red wine flour topped with creamy lobster bisque\*
- Smoked chicken topped with crispy maple bacon served with pan drippings, rhubarb and juniper berry sauce
- Corn syrup acorn squash and roasted beets
- Apple and dried fruit strudel with maple crème anglaise\*
- Dark chocolate seed and nut brittle

\* contains gluten

1:30 - 2:00

### **Digging Roots band in concert**

Raven Kanatakta (lead vocals and guitar), ShoShona Kish (lead vocals), Skye Polson (percussion), Paul Brennan (drums), Andre Blais (bass), Faye Blais (supporting vocals)

2:20 - 3:05

**Tiio Horn**, Actress, writer/director/producer

3:10 - 4:00

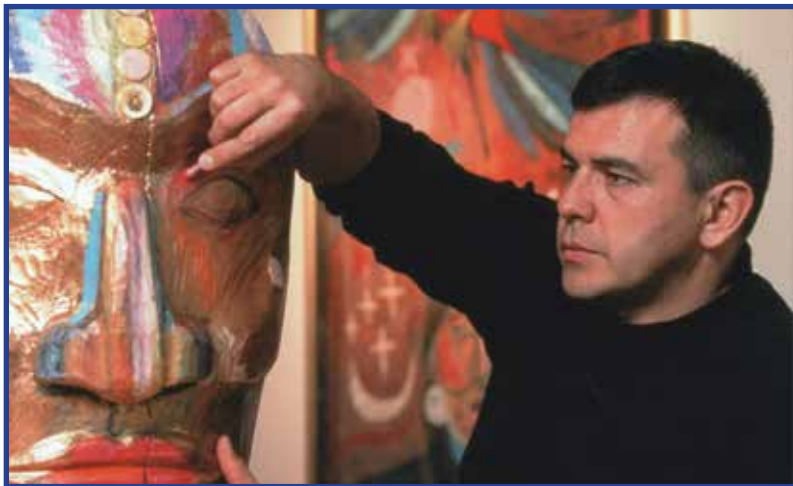
**Digging Roots (Raven Kanatakta and ShoShona Kish)**

4:05 – 4:30

Concluding remarks, gift basket draw, closing prayer



# New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts



## George Littlechild

A painter and educator known for his bold use of colour, digitally manipulated photographs, and portraits that honour family members and his Plains Cree ancestry, George has exhibited extensively in both solo and group shows in Canada, the US and abroad. His work is found in public and private collections across Canada and his art and books have won numerous awards. He teaches at the Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver. Children hold a special place for George and he is always willing to talk to them about art and life. "I am a storyteller, a visualist. It is what I was born to do. It is my passion, my joy, as art has been there through my life's journey." It is his hope that his work will contribute to reducing racism and promote heritage, pride and a celebration of the unique person each of us is born to be. George is a graduate of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Originally from Alberta, he now lives in Comox, BC.

[georgelittlechild.com](http://georgelittlechild.com)

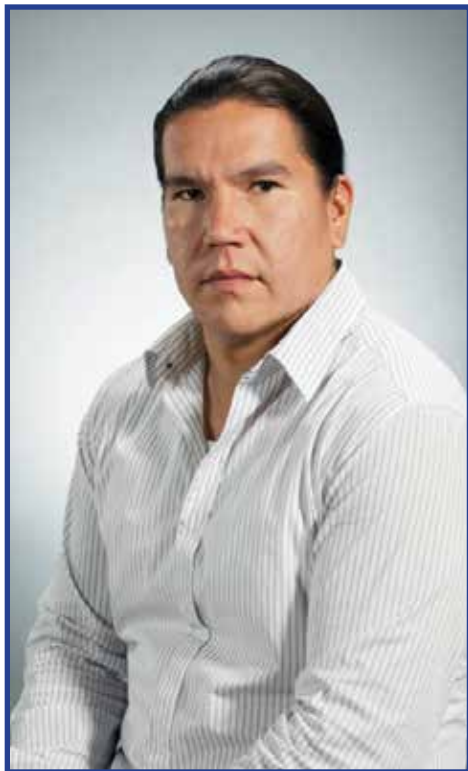
## Gloria Miguel

Gloria Miguel is an actress and founding member of Spiderwoman Theater and has worked extensively in film and television. With Spiderwoman Theater she toured throughout Europe, Australia and New Zealand as well as Canada and the US. She toured the US in *Grandma*, a one woman show, and appeared in the original Native Earth production of Tomson Highway's *The Rez Sisters*, as well as performing in Native Earth's *Son of Ayash*. In Edmonton, she performed in the Northern Lights Production of *Jessica*, and was nominated for a Sterling Award as Best Supporting Actress. Gloria studied drama at Oberlin College in Ohio and is a lifetime member of the Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute. She received an honorary DFA degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. In *Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue*, her recent one-woman show, she takes a humorous and poignant look at the treatment of Elders in our society. Of Kuna and Rappahannock ancestry, she lives in Brooklyn, New York.



[spiderwomanteater.org](http://spiderwomanteater.org)

photo: Ed Marnyama Photography



## Waubgeshig Rice

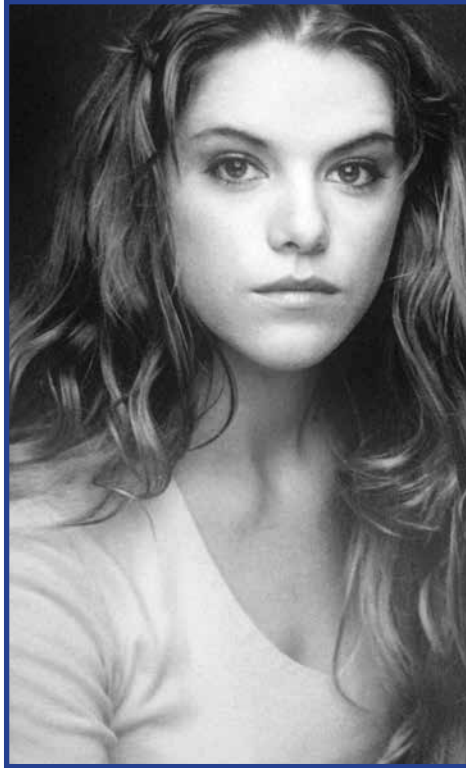
Waubgeshig Rice is an author and journalist who developed a strong passion for storytelling as a child while listening to the stories his elders shared. This, along with his unique experiences growing up in his community, inspired him to write creatively. Some of the stories he wrote as a teenager eventually became *Midnight Sweatlodge*, his first collection of fiction published by Theytus Books in 2011. His debut novel, *Legacy*, was also published by Theytus last summer and he was the 2014 recipient of the Debwewin Citation for Excellence in First Nation Storytelling. His journalism career began when he was a 17 year old

exchange student in northern Germany, writing about being Anishinaabe in a European country for newspapers back in Canada. He graduated from Ryerson University's journalism program in 2002, and has worked in a variety of media across Canada. He started working for CBC in Winnipeg in 2006, and along with reporting the news, has produced television and radio documentaries and features for the public broadcaster. He currently works as a radio and television journalist for CBC News Ottawa.



## Tiio Horn

Kaniehtiio Horn is a film and television actress and writer who burst onto the feature film scene with roles in *The Trotsky*, New Reel Film's *Leslie, My Name is Evil*, as well as the lead role in the critically acclaimed and award winning *The Wild Hunt*. All three films premiered at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival. Other credits include supporting roles in Jacob Tierney's *Good Neighbours*, *Immortals*, and *On the Road*. In 2009, Tiio earned a Gemini Award nomination for her portrayal of Angel in the APTN movie of the week, *Moccasin Flats: Redemption*, and in 2010 and 2011 as part of the ensemble cast of CBC TV's



*18 to Life*. Other television credits include the 2010 pilot for the APTN series, *Mohawk Girls*, and a recurring role on the Syfy Channel's *Defiance*, as well as guest appearances on *Being Human*, *Alphas*, *19-2* and the CBS/Warner Bros show, *Supernatural*. Tiio currently appears in the Netflix original horror/thriller series, *Hemlock Grove*. Tiio wrote, directed, and acted in the semi-autobiographical short film, *The Smoke Shack*, which took home the 'Golden Sheaf' award for Best Comedy at the 2013 Yorkton Film Festival. Tiio is a Theatre Arts graduate of Dawson College and divides her time between Kahnawake, Toronto, and Los Angeles.

**[twitter.com/kaniehtiio](https://twitter.com/kaniehtiio)**

# New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts



## Digging Roots

Digging Roots, the award winning musical duo comprised of Raven Kanatakta and ShoShona Kish, employs a style that has been variously described as 'indie roots' or 'global blues'.

Their first album, *seeds*, received a Juno nomination, and the second, *WE ARE*, secured the Juno award for Aboriginal Recording of the Year in 2010. They and their band have toured extensively to communities large and small throughout Canada, the US, Europe, Mexico and Australia, as well as the Canadian and Norwegian arctic. Their new release, *For the Light*, once again nominated for an Aboriginal Album of the Year

Juno, is an eclectic tapestry of light and dark sound with sweet harmonies and the melodic accompaniment of ukulele, banjo, mellotron and Raven's renowned resonator guitar. They trade lead vocals, fluidly complementing each other's strengths while moving from whispery intimacies to smoky wails. Inspired by their travels, the husband and wife song writing team have produced a set of songs reflecting a maturing sense of storytelling infused with the roots and blues of the inner city, back roads and all the places in between.

Raven, from Winneway/Long Point First Nation and Kahnawake, is a graduate of the Berklee School of Music in Boston, and ShoShona, from Baatchewana Bay First Nation, studied music here at Carleton, and creative writing at the En'owkin Centre in British Columbia. Digging Roots is currently performing as a six-piece band.

[www.DiggingRootsMusic.com](http://www.DiggingRootsMusic.com)

[www.Twitter.com/DiggingRoots](https://twitter.com/DiggingRoots)

[www.Facebook.com/DiggingRoots](https://www.facebook.com/DiggingRoots)

## 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 from the non-Native community. Presenters have included those with expertise in photography, painting, sculpture, film making, acting, dance, musical performance, curating, arts education, architecture, 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 videotaped and archived on DVD in the Carleton University Library.

**New Sun:** Continuing the legacy of her father, Eric Harvie, who was given the honorary name “Old Sun” in 1962, Joy Maclaren was given the name “New Sun” in 1995 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. She received her distinctive blue shawl at that time.

**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. Contact: [allan.ryan@carleton.ca](mailto:allan.ryan@carleton.ca)

For photos and feedback from previous conferences visit the New Sun Conference Archive: [www.trickstershift.com](http://www.trickstershift.com)

### The New Sun Conference Needs Your Support

Registration fees for the New Sun Conference have been kept as low as possible to make the conference accessible to all (especially students). As the acknowledgements regularly note, the conference has been supported by various benefactors. With the passing of Joy Maclaren and increased restrictions on the availability of funding from the university itself, it is necessary to appeal for donations in order to ensure the continuation of the conference. Any amount is welcome. Forms are available at the registration desk and online at [carleton.ca/giving](http://carleton.ca/giving)



THANKS TO ALL THE PRESENTERS AND VOLUNTEERS  
AND THE FOLLOWING:

RAE RYAN: program biographies, gift basket, presenter gifts, luncheon decor,  
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GEORGE LITTLECHILD: poster and program image,  
*Modern Girl, Traditional Mindset*

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CHARLOTTE HOELKE: Assistant to Ms. Miguel

ANNA EYLER: website synopses of all conference presentations

MARTIN ST. DENIS, CLASSIC FARE CATERING: gourmet luncheon

PETER MACDONALD, NUTSHELL MUSIC:

sound, lighting, and performance ambiance

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