

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts:**

# **SHINING THROUGH**



**Saturday, March 5, 2011**

**9:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Room 5050, 5th Floor  
Minto Centre, Carleton University**



# Shining Through



Welcome to Carleton University and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts: Shining Through. As in the past, we acknowledge with gratitude the hospitality of the Algonquin people on whose traditional unceded territory we gather today.

The signature image for this year's conference is based on a design for a painted drum that artist Mike Dangeli was commissioned to make as a gift for singer Buffy Saint-Marie in honour of her nomination for a 2009 Juno Award.

Mike says, "The drum was called *Shining Through*. It embodies the Nisga'a concept of *nloomsk ts'üü siigyemk* which refers to the sacred strength of the sunbeam. It is one of our most important Nisga'a beliefs that we need to walk in the light that the creator provides. It nurtures our soul and strengthens our ability to manage our lives and treat our fellow human beings and the world around us in a positive way. Walking the path outside the light, a path of darkness and negativity, is sometimes easier but in the end it does more damage to us. Some of the most powerful songs we sing are those that remind us that we need to go back to that sacred space, to 'walk in the light,' and maintain a positive and healing relationship to ourselves, our world, our universe."

In light of these teachings, *Shining Through* seems an especially fitting image to mark this special anniversary in that it embodies many of the goals of the New Sun Conference itself: to provide a sacred space for celebration and reflection, to nurture souls (and hearts), to inspire positive actions, and foster healing relationships through the communal sharing of stories and songs. Judging from the copious feedback received over the past decade it would appear that these goals have been met many times over in ways both playful and profound.

Thematically, *Shining Through* is a fertile verbal and visual metaphor that stirs the imagination. We can envision numerous streams of light, shafts of creative cultural brilliance, piercing the dark clouds of apathy and ignorance to affirm a vital and persistent indigenous presence. And in the process, bringing enlightenment, enrichment and renewal. In this renewal, in the dawning of each new day – especially on *this* new day – what is clearly shining through are the radiant beams of a New Sun.

Today, the life-giving energy of this light is made manifest in the layered symbology of Nadia Myre's film and beaded photo explorations; in the arctic imaginings of Mosha Folger's verse and tricky hip hop songscapes; in the majestic sweep and curve of Douglas Cardinal's distinctive built environments; in the triumph of the healing spirit in Armand Garnet Ruffo's filmic odyssey, *A Windigo Tale*; and in the cultural exuberance that animates the life and artistry of Mike Dangeli and Mique'l Askren and the Git Hayetsk Dancers.

It promises to be a memorable day. Enjoy.

All my relations.

Allan J. Ryan

**PROGRAM - 2011**

- 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,**  
ROSEANN O'REILLY RUNTE,  
President, Carleton University
- 9:30 - 10:20      **NADIA MYRE,**  
multi-media visual artist and film maker
- 10:20 - 10:35      **Nutrition Break**
- 10:35 - 11:25      **MOSHA FOLGER,**  
spoken word poet, Inuit hip recording artist
- 11:30 - 12:20      **DOUGLAS CARDINAL,**  
internationally renowned architect

## PROGRAM - 2011

- 12:30 - 1:30      **Buffet luncheon of Native cuisine,**  
Fenn Lounge,  
Residence Commons
- Menu:*
- Bannock bread with maple butter and clove-scented  
  Cloud berry and apple jam
  - Frisee salad with strawberries and wild mushrooms,  
  served with warm mustard vinaigrette and topped with  
  sunflower seeds
  - Apple and pear salad with Saskatoon berry vinaigrette
  - Bitter greens salad with heirloom tomato
  - Roasted yams and mini potatoes
  - Far North wild rice casserole
  - Honey glazed root vegetables and squash
  - Wild game ragout (venison, bison and elk meat)
  - Cedar planked salmon fillet on a bed of julienned leeks  
  and herbs
  - Berry fruit flan, and brown sugar tart
- 1:30 - 2:00      **GIT HAYETSK**  
Dancers in performance:  
MIKE DANGELI, MIQUE'L ASKREN,  
JOYCE WESLEY, NATASHA SMITH
- 2:20 - 3:10      **ARMAND GARNET RUFFO,**  
Poet and writer/director of the award-winning film,  
*A Windigo Tale*
- 3:15 - 4:05      **MIKE DANGELI AND MIQUE'L ASKREN,**  
leaders of the Git Hayetsk Dancers
- 4:10 - 4:30      **Concluding remarks,**  
gift basket draw  
Closing prayer



## **Nadia Myre**

Nadia Myre is a multi-disciplinary visual artist from Montreal and a member of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg. Her work explores the notions of longing and loss, as well as the incessant human drive to reconcile the two. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Emily Carr School of Art in Vancouver, and a Master of Fine Arts from Concordia University. Myre is the recipient of numerous grants and awards, notably the Quebec Arts Council: Prix la création artistique pour la région des Laurentides, and a Fellowship from the Eiteljorg Museum. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in New York, London, France, Shanghai, and Australia. In 2000, as a tribute to her mother's efforts in re-establishing their Indian status, Myre coordinated a project to bead over all fifty-six pages of the Indian Act with the help of over two hundred participants. Recent solo exhibitions include *Scar Tissue*, Smithsonian Institute National Museum of the American Indian, New York (2010), and *Landscape of Sorrow and Other New Work*, Art Mûr, Montreal (2009). Her work is found in numerous collections including: the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Eiteljorg Museum, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal, the National Gallery of Canada, and the Smithsonian Institute National Museum of the American Indian. An exhibition of her work, *Nadia Myre: Symbology*, will be on view at the Carleton University Art Gallery at the time of the New Sun Conference.

*www.nadiamyre.com and on facebook*



## Moshia Folger

Moshia Folger (aka M.O.) was born in Iqaluit, Nunavut, to an Inuk mother and American father. A writer and performer, Moshia has dabbled in journalism, been a playwright and poet/performer at the Weesageechak Begins to Dance festival, and has shared his 'Eskimocentric' brand of spoken word performance at various venues, including WestFest in Ottawa, the Railway Club in Vancouver, and the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik (where he was named a Best New Artist). Moshia's video work, *Never Saw It*, (2008) melded spoken word, hip hop and visuals, and was an official selection at the Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival. Moshia is currently working on *Anaana*, a personal examination of the lasting effects of residential schools. Moshia began to concentrate on hip hop in 2009, creating beats and rapping, culminating in the self-released CD, *Eskimocentricity*, under the name M.O. The followup release, *String Games*, is a duo effort with rapper, and longtime friend, Geothermal MC. Moshia is active in the Ottawa poetry community, and is a member of the Bill Brown 1-2-3 collective. He also brings the fun and power of spoken word and hip-hop to the young, from grade schoolers to teens, at Tungasuvvingat Inuit (an Ottawa-area Inuit organization) and the Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre.

*[www.inukhiphop.com](http://www.inukhiphop.com) and on facebook*



## **Douglas Cardinal**

Douglas Cardinal is an internationally renowned architect and the recipient of many honours and awards, including eleven honorary doctorates and a Gold Medal in Architecture from the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada, one of the highest awards available to a practicing architect. He is also an Officer of the Order of Canada. Cardinal was born and raised in Alberta, of Métis Blackfoot ancestry and studied architecture at the University of British Columbia, and the University of Texas. His architectural training has been supplemented by an apprenticeship with Aboriginal teachers and a thoughtful response to the needs of Native communities. Throughout his career Cardinal has pioneered the use of computers in architectural design. In his buildings, he seeks to elevate the human spirit and bring harmony and balance to our own nature and our natural environment. His designs include numerous public buildings -- from schools, halfway houses, and Friendship Centres to one of the most visionary and iconic buildings in Canada, the Canadian Museum of Civilization. It has been recognized as one of Canada's -- and the world's -- greatest architectural landmarks. The new Wabano Mamawi Centre to be built on Montreal Road in Ottawa is another example of his unique approach to design. Now based in Ottawa, Cardinal's practice takes him around the world. In February Cardinal donated to Carleton University his entire collection from 1984 onwards of drawings, plans, files and models.

*[www.djcarchitect.com](http://www.djcarchitect.com)*





## Armand Ruffo

Armand Garnet Ruffo is a writer and educator whose work includes essays, short fiction, poetry, plays and recently, film. *A Windigo Tale*, his screenwriting and directorial debut, most notably won Best Picture at the 35<sup>th</sup> American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco in 2010. He is the author of poetry collections, *Opening In The Sky*, and *At Geronimo's Grave*, winner of the Archibald Lampman Award for Poetry, and the acclaimed creative biography *Grey Owl: the Mystery of Archie Belaney*. He has also edited a collection of essays, *(Ad)Dressing Our Words: Aboriginal Perspectives on Aboriginal Literature* (2002), co-written the entry on *Aboriginal literature for The Cambridge History of Canadian Literature* (2009), and is currently co-editing a new edition of *An Anthology of Canadian Native Literature in English* for Oxford University Press. Ruffo's poetry has appeared in numerous anthologies and journals, including *Making A Difference: Canadian Multicultural Literatures in English* (Oxford, 2007), and *The Echoing Years: An Anthology of Poetry and Translation from Canada and Ireland* (Blackwell, 2008), and most recently in *Best Canadian Poetry* (Tightrope Books, 2010). He is currently writing a book on the acclaimed Anishinaabe painter Norval Morrisseau; excerpts have appeared in various publications including the National Gallery of Canada's catalogue to the 2006 exhibition, *Norval Morrisseau: Shaman Artist*. Born in Chapleau, northern Ontario, with roots to the Sagamok Ojibway First Nation and the Chapleau Fox Lake Cree First Nation, he currently lives in Ottawa and is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at Carleton University.



### **Mike Dangeli & Mique'l Askren**

Mike Dangeli is a member of the Nisga'a, Tlingit, Tsetsaut, and Tsimshian Nations. His people's traditional territory is the Nass River Valley area of British Columbia. Since childhood, Mike has been training under the leaders of his family to be the *Simoget* (hereditary chief) of his clan among the Nisga'a. He has apprenticed with many master carvers and regularly returns home to northern BC and Alaska where he continues to learn oral histories, songs, dances, and protocols from his elders. Mike currently lives in Vancouver where his studio is the focal point not just for his own work but classes, workshops and seminars for teaching Northwest Coast art to urban First Nations children, youth and adults. Since 2003 he has shared the leadership of *The Git Hayetsk Dancers* with his fiancée, **Mique'l Askren**. Mique'l is a member of the Tsimshian Nation of the Metlakatla Indian Community in Alaska and has a Bachelor's degree in Art History from the University of Washington, a Masters from the University of British Columbia, and is currently a PhD Candidate at UBC specializing in Northwest Coast First Nations Art History. Mike and Mique'l have performed, lectured, and conducted workshops and carving demonstrations throughout Canada, the United States, and abroad. They take pride in a respectful approach to being traditional and contemporary and make it a priority to continue and expand ancient traditions in contemporary times. As well as singing the songs of the ancestors they create new songs, dances, drums, rattles, masks, and regalia to reflect and record their experiences as First Nations people today.

*Visit the Git Hayetsk Dancers on facebook*

## THE NEW SUN CONFERENCE ON ABORIGINAL ARTS: BACKGROUND

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, 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 videotaped and archived on DVD in 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, 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. In 2011 she was made a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition of her philanthropy and ongoing support of post-secondary education.

**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.

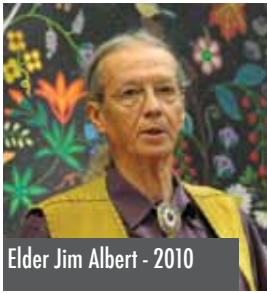
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*www.trickstershift.com*

# NEW SUN CONFERENCE ON ABORIGINAL ARTS



Gerald Vizenor - 2010



Elder Jim Albert - 2010



Maria Campbell - 2005



Joseph Boyden - 2006



Elisapie Isaac - 2007



Joseph Boyden - 2006



Christi Belcourt - 2010



Phoebe Sutherland - 2005

# A DECADE OF CELEBRATION AND INSPIRATION



Minto 5010 - 2010



Tanya Tagaq - 2010



Tracey Deer - 2008



Tom Jackson - 2009



Taqralik Partridge - 2008



Susan Aglukark - 2006



Riel Benn - 2006

# NEW SUN CONFERENCE ON ABORIGINAL ARTS



Don Kelly - 2009



Shaneen Robinson - 2009



Tamara Podemski - 2004



Michael Greyeyes - 2008



Celina Kalluk & Tanya Tagaq - 2010



Beverly Souliere & Elaine Keillor - 2008



New Sun 2008



Jason Ryle - 2005

# A DECADE OF CELEBRATION AND INSPIRATION



Fenn Lounge - 2008



Allan J. Ryan - 2009



Harmony Rice - 2006



Santee Smith - 2008



John Kelly - 2008



Jani Lauzon - 2005



Jennifer Podemski - 2002

**THANKS TO  
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**JOHNNY EL-ALAM:** conference web design

**ANNA EYLER:** website synopses for all conference presentations

**ELM PRINTING:** poster and program printing

**MIKE DANGELI:** signature image, *Shining Through*

**SANDRA DYCK, CARLETON UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY,**  
curator of the Nadia Myre exhibition, *Symbology*

**ARMAND GARNET RUFFO:** film screening of *A Windigo Tale*

**CLASSIC FARE CATERING:** gourmet luncheon

**PETER MACDONALD, NUTSHELL MUSIC:**

sound, lighting, and performance ambiance

**CODY PARTY CENTRE:** balloons

**TIM CATHCART BLACK, CARLETON INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA SERVICES**  
video coordination

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