

8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
NEW SUN CONFERENCE  
ON ABORIGINAL ARTS:  
INSPIRING RESILIENCE



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2009,  
9 AM - 4:30 PM  
ROOM 5050, 5TH FLOOR,  
MINTO CENTRE, CARLETON UNIVERSITY





8TH ANNUAL  
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ON ABORIGINAL ARTS:  
INSPIRING RESILIENCE

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The theme of the 8th Annual New Sun Conference, Inspiring Resilience, is informed by the comments and feedback of previous conference participants, who frequently describe both presenters and presentations as “inspiring.” It is an apt description. The creative cultural spirit that infuses the work of contemporary Aboriginal artists is inspiring in several ways: on the most basic level, it affirms the power of the arts to touch us deeply, articulating the human experience in the most profound and joyful ways. Inspiring too are the diverse personal narratives of challenge and discovery, of struggle and achievement that command our admiration and respect. There is also inspiration in the celebration of Aboriginal voices – from seasoned elders to activist youth, in formats ranging from traditional teachings to plays and popular song. There is no shortage of role models in the Aboriginal community; moreover, the influence of such role models extends far beyond its borders. In the end, it is the resilience of Aboriginal culture itself that is inspiring, though not entirely surprising. In a well known and widespread trickster tale, Coyote (or Nanabush), refuses to be killed or contained, repeatedly springing back to life with increased determination, and creative drive. It is this creative cultural rejuvenation that we are here today to once again affirm and share.

All my relations.

*Allan J. Ryan*

## PROGRAM 2009

**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**

DON KELLY,  
writer/humorist, host of APTN's *Fish Out of Water*

**10:25 - 11:15**

STEVEN LOFT,  
Curator in Residence, Indigenous Art, National Gallery of  
Canada

**11:15 - 11:30**

Nutrition Break

**11:30 - 12:20**

SHANEEN ROBINSON,  
writer/broadcaster, winner, Canadian Aboriginal Writing  
Challenge

# PROGRAM 2009

**12:30 - 1:30 pm**

Buffet luncheon of Native cuisine, Fenn Lounge,  
Residence Commons

*Menu:*

- Bannock bread with strawberry whipped butter
- White and wild rice salad
- Roasted root vegetable salad
- Yukon gold mash
- Maple baked acorn squash
- Pan seared Arctic Char with fish broth
- Beef and vegetable stew
- Blueberry and pumpkin pie with whipped cream

**1:30 - 2:00**

***TOM JACKSON IN CONCERT***

Fenn Lounge

**2:20 - 3:10**

MICHAEL MASSIE,  
silversmith/sculptor

**3:15 - 4:05**

TOM JACKSON,  
singer/actor/humanitarian

**4:10 - 4:30**

Concluding remarks, gift basket draw  
Closing prayer



## DON KELLY

Don Kelly is a comedian, writer, and actor. As a stand-up comic he has performed in clubs and numerous comedy showcases on television and radio. Don is currently host and writer of the Gemini-nominated television show *Fish Out of Water* on APTN.

The show explores Don's adventures as an urban Indian trying to learn the traditional skills and wisdom of Aboriginal peoples across Canada, usually with hilarious results. He has a background in media, having worked as a writer-broadcaster for CBC, as well as in strategic communications and media relations. For many years he served as Communications Director for the Assembly of First Nations and continues to do contract work for them as time permits. Don is a member of the Ojibways of Onigaming, of northwestern Ontario.

## STEVEN LOFT

Steven Loft is a curator, writer and video artist. He was recently appointed as Curator in Residence in Indigenous Art at the National Gallery of Canada, having previously worked as Director of Winnipeg's Urban Shaman Gallery, First Nations Curator at



the Art Gallery of Hamilton and Artistic Director of the Native Indian/Inuit Photographers' Association. Steven has written extensively on First Nations art and aesthetics for a variety of publications and his video works have been screened at festivals and galleries across Canada and internationally. He is a Mohawk of the Six Nations.

*[www.gallery.ca](http://www.gallery.ca)*



## SHANEEN ROBINSON

Shaneen Robinson is a broadcaster, playwright and television reporter for CTV News in Winnipeg. Her first play entitled *Notay Kiskintamowin*, which in Cree means, "Wanting to Know" was awarded first place in the

2008 Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge. This year Shaneen was one of twelve Aboriginal youth chosen for the Lead Your Way-National Aboriginal Role Model Program. She is very active in the Aboriginal community and is a member of the Cree and Gitksan Nations

[www.our-story.ca](http://www.our-story.ca)



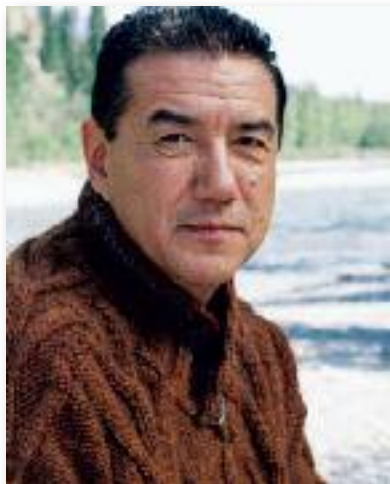
## MICHAEL MASSIE

Michael Massie is an artist who combines traditional Inuit imagery with western art influences and techniques to produce stunning contemporary works in silver, stone and wood. Since his first exhibition in 1991, his work has been

shown throughout North America and Europe, with pieces selected for prestigious museums and private collections, including the National Gallery of Canada. As an instructor Michael has traveled to the Arctic to oversee jewellery and stone carving workshops as well as serving on art committees and boards. His work is notable for its meticulous detail and sense of fun. Michael is of Inuit, Metis and Scottish descent, and lives in Newfoundland.



*Photo courtesy of Spirit wrestler Gallery, Vancouver*



## TOM JACKSON

Tom Jackson is a singer, songwriter, actor and humanitarian. He has recorded fourteen albums and appeared in numerous roles on television and in film. He is well known to many Canadians for his role as Chief Peter Kenidi in the long-running CBC

TV series, *North of Sixty*. Tom has applied his many musical and entrepreneurial gifts to combat hunger and support social programs. His recent *Singing for Supper Tour*, performed in churches and community halls across Canada, continues the Christmas concert tradition which began with his annual *Huron Carole Benefit Concert Series*. His *Swinging for Supper* events pair his love for golf and live music, raising money and awareness for food banks and agencies meeting the needs of at-risk youth. Tom is an Officer of the Order of Canada and the recipient of numerous awards and honorary degrees. He was born on the One Arrow Cree reserve in Saskatchewan, and currently lives in Calgary.

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

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 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 “interweaving communities” 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.

Allan J. Ryan was appointed as the New Sun Chair in Aboriginal Art and Culture in July, 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](http://www.trickstershift.com)*

Congratulations!  
to New Sun Conference “Alumni”  
2008 Awards

Writer **Joseph Boyden** (2006), whose book *Through Black Spruce* won the 2008 Scotiabank Giller Prize for Best Canadian Novel.

Ottawa sculptor **Ron Noganosh** (2005), awarded the 2008 prize for individual artist, in the annual Ontario Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts.

Photographer **Jeff Thomas** (2002), recipient of the 2008 Karsh Award for outstanding work in a photo-based medium. It is presented every two years by the City of Ottawa.

Film maker **Tracey Deer** (2008), whose film, *Club Native* won the 2008 Kodak-Vision Globe Award for Best Canadian Film at the First People's Festival (Land Insights), Montreal; and the 2008 Collin Low Award for Best Canadian Documentary at DOXA, Documentary Film Festival, Vancouver.

Actor/choreographer **Michael Greyeyes** (2008), whose film, *Triptych*, was nominated for a 2008 Gemini Award for Best Direction in a Performing Arts Program or Series.

Dancer/choreographer, **Santee Smith** (2008), nominated for a 2008 Gemini Award for Best Performance in a Performing Arts Program or Series, for *Here on Earth*.

A presentation of the New Sun Chair in Aboriginal Art and Culture  
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