

CMA AWARDS | 2021

Celebrating excellence in Canada's museum sector



TWO INDIGENOUS-LED EXHIBITIONS WON CANADIAN MUSEUM ASSOCIATION OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Ottawa, May 13, 2021 – The Winnipeg Art Gallery's (WAG) interactive exhibit and exploration of Indigenous boarder culture, Boarder X, alongside Tshilanu Ilnuatsh 'Nous, les Ilnuatsh', from the Musée amérindien de Mashteuisath were awarded the prestigious Canadian Museums Association (CMA) Outstanding Achievement in Exhibitions award at this year's CMA Conference.

In addition to celebrating achievement, the CMA Awards uplift and inspire by helping set community benchmarks of excellence. All are awarded following a competitive process and peer review by a volunteer jury.

"The Winnipeg Art Gallery's Boarder X exhibit brings life to the museum by demonstrating and celebrating how art can be inclusive and transformative," said CMA Awards committee chair Benoît Légaré. "This touring exhibit celebrates Indigenous boarding culture and its connections with the environment – whether that be among the mountains, the waves, or urban landscapes".

Curated by Jaimie Isaac, WAG Curator of Indigenous and Contemporary Art, this travelling exhibit engages audiences with dialogues surrounding relationships with the land and how boarding culture impacts sovereignty, the environment, politics and nationhood.

The exhibit is currently touring, set to open at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre on May 27, 2021.

Created in consultation with the Pekuakamiulnuatsh, Tshilanu Ilnuatsh 'Nous, les Ilnuatsh' is a multi-sensory experience that transports the audience through various aspects and legends of the Pekuakamiulnuatsh culture and highlights the importance of auditory and visual transmission of knowledge of Ilnu culture.

The experiential exhibition invites visitors to participate in a number of ways – through its interactive animation space, gathering around a fire and learning from guides, storytellers, and community elders. The accessible, sensory exhibit was designed to be a place of transmission and exchange of past, present, and future Pekuakamiulnuatsh values and identity. Archaeological pieces and artworks from the Pekuakamiulnuatsh community reflect on its traditions and continued adaptations to society – allowing the visitors and the exhibition to demonstrate that the thriving culture of the Pekuakamiulnuatsh is still an inseparable part of the community.

The CMA conference brings together hundreds of museum professionals from every region of the country. It was held exceptionally online this year from May 3 to May 13.

For more information:

<https://museums.ca/site/awards/2021>

Rebecca MacKenzie, Communications Manager
communications@museums.ca

For Boarder X:

Amy Rebecca Harrison, Engagement Supervisor
Winnipeg Art Gallery
(204) 789-1347 ext. 347; aharrison@wag.ca

Jaimie Isaac, Exhibit Curator
(204) 510-6200; jisaac@wag.ca

The Canadian Museum Association (CMA) is the voice for Canada's vibrant museum community; from small, volunteer-driven organizations to cherished national institutions, and for the millions of Canadians whose lives are enriched by museums.

We advocate for public policies and support, we build skills across the profession, and we establish and inspire connections to strengthen and sustain museums.