

Meryl McMaster
Confluence

January 14 - March 19, 2017

Curator: Heather Anderson
Produced by Carleton University Art Gallery, Ottawa

Artist Talk: January 14, 2:00 pm
Reception: January 14, 3:00 - 5:00 pm



Artist's self-portraits boldly subvert Indigenous representation

Richmond Art Gallery presents Canadian artist Meryl McMaster's first solo exhibition in British Columbia. *Confluence* is the first survey of McMaster's distinctive self-portraits, which draw on the practices of sculpture, performance, and photography. An artist of mixed Plains Cree and Euro-Canadian heritage, McMaster's work references, subverts, and re-envisioning Indigenous representation through an exploration of self.

Within the three distinctive bodies of work in *Confluence*, McMaster experiments with the fluid domain of identity, and the possibilities of examining and revisioning. Placing her body centrally in front of the camera, she continually alters her appearance, whether by layering photographic images onto her body or through the elaborate costumes and props she creates and inhabits as alter egos. In *Ancestral* (2008-09), McMaster explores this legacy and her heritage by projecting onto her own face, and that of her father's, historic portraits of Indigenous individuals taken by such photographers as Edward Curtis,

Will Soule and painter, George Catlin. For *In-Between Worlds* (2010-13) and *Wanderings* (2015) McMaster traverses the winter landscape creating an otherworldly series that considers human experience and connection to the natural world.

Meryl McMaster graduated with a BFA from the Ontario College of Art and Design in 2010. Her awards include the Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellowship, Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art (2013) and the Charles Pachter Prize for Emerging Artists, Hnatyshyn Foundation (2012). She was long listed for the 2016 Sobey Art Award. McMaster's work has been exhibited across Ontario and Quebec and in the United States. Her work is held in many public collections including the Art Gallery of Ontario; Justina M. Barnicke Gallery; City of Ottawa; Eiteljorg Museum; and the Canada Council Art Bank; as well as in many private collections. McMaster is represented by Katzman Contemporary in Toronto.

This exhibition was produced by Carleton University Art Gallery and curated by Heather Anderson. A publication with essays by Gabrielle Moser, cheyanne turions and an interview with McMaster by CUAG curator Heather Anderson will be available for purchase during the exhibition.

Meryl McMaster will be in attendance at the reception on Saturday, January 14 and will give a talk at 2:00 pm. The reception will follow from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. The exhibition is on view until March 19, 2017.

The Richmond Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges the on-going support of the City of Richmond, the Richmond Art Gallery Association, the British Columbia Arts Council, and the Province of British Columbia. The Richmond Art Gallery received a Canada Council project grant in support of this exhibition.

Image: Meryl McMaster, *Dream Catcher*, 2015, ink jet print, edition 2 of 2 AP, 32 x 66 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Katzman Contemporary.

Exhibition produced by:

cuag Carleton University Art Gallery

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Monday - Friday: 10 am - 6 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 9 pm
Saturday & Sunday: 10 am - 5pm



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