

# Citizens of Tomorrow:


Citizens of Tomorrow: Investigating the Impact of Community Media Arts  
Practice on Marginalized Urban Youth

## **Shifting Perception in the Digital Age**

**Kit Grauer, Anna Ryoo, Francine Cunningham**

**The University of British Columbia**

## Research Questions:

1. How do young people's creative practice and digital production influence their conceptualization, negotiation, and participation around issues of identity, culture, and wellbeing?
  2. What roles do artists/teachers play in community-based sites in engaging with marginalized youth to foster youth participation and community engagement?
  3. How does the impact of media arts learning on marginalized young people suggest new curricula, pedagogies, and policies that will help improve urban art education?
- 
- A decorative background at the bottom of the slide consisting of a grid of squares in various colors including purple, blue, green, orange, and grey.





Research site: Museum of Anthropology

Vancouver, British Columbia





Research site: Gulf Island Film and Television School

Galiano Island, British Columbia





Research site: La Cité des arts

Montreal, Québec





Research site: La maison Kekpart

Montreal, Québec



a place of mind

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver Campus



Faculty of Education  
Citizens of Tomorrow

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## Faculty of Education



### Community Research Site: Gulf Island Film and Television School

The Gulf Islands Film & Television School is a creative media epicenter where first time rookies, youth & adults, live with and are mentored by Canada's top media producers and industry professionals. GIFTS specializes in "learning by doing," offering short hands-on media

<http://citizensoftomorrow.research.educ.ubc.ca>



# ASSERT, DEFEND, TAKE SPACE

Aboriginal youth and media conference  
on identity, activism, and film



The daylong event featured screenings of over a dozen short films followed by panel discussions with young Aboriginal artists and activists.

Themes of the sessions included: Youth Identity Politics, and Sovereignty, Deconstructing the Objectification of Indigenous Women, and Environmental and Youth Activism.



# ASSERT, DEFEND, TAKE SPACE

Aboriginal youth on identity, activism, and film

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No light to warm the earth,

# CLAIMING SPACE

VOICES OF URBAN ABORIGINAL YOUTH

June 1, 2014–January 4, 2015



Curators: Pam Brown, Maija Tailfeathers  
At The Museum of Anthropology at The University of British Columbia

<http://moa.ubc.ca/claimingspace/>



*Claiming Space: Voices of Urban Aboriginal Youth* looks at the diverse ways urban Aboriginal youth are asserting their identity and affirming their relationship to both urban spaces and ancestral territories. Unfiltered and unapologetic, over 20 young artists from across Canada, the US, and around the world define what it really means to be an urban Aboriginal youth today. In doing so they challenge centuries of stereotyping and assimilation policies. This exhibit will leave visitors with the understanding that today's urban Aboriginal youth are not only acutely aware of the ongoing impacts of colonization, but are also creatively engaging with decolonizing movements through new media, film, fashion, photography, painting, performance, creative writing and traditional art forms.

The exhibition is curated by Pam Brown (Heiltsuk Nation), Curator, Pacific Northwest, and Curatorial Assistant Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers (Blackfoot, Blood Reserve/Sami, northern Norway).



The Indigenous Sprawl: Urban spaces as sites of colonization





We are Culture: Challenging Canada's long history of assimilation and policies to eradicate Indigenous culture and language

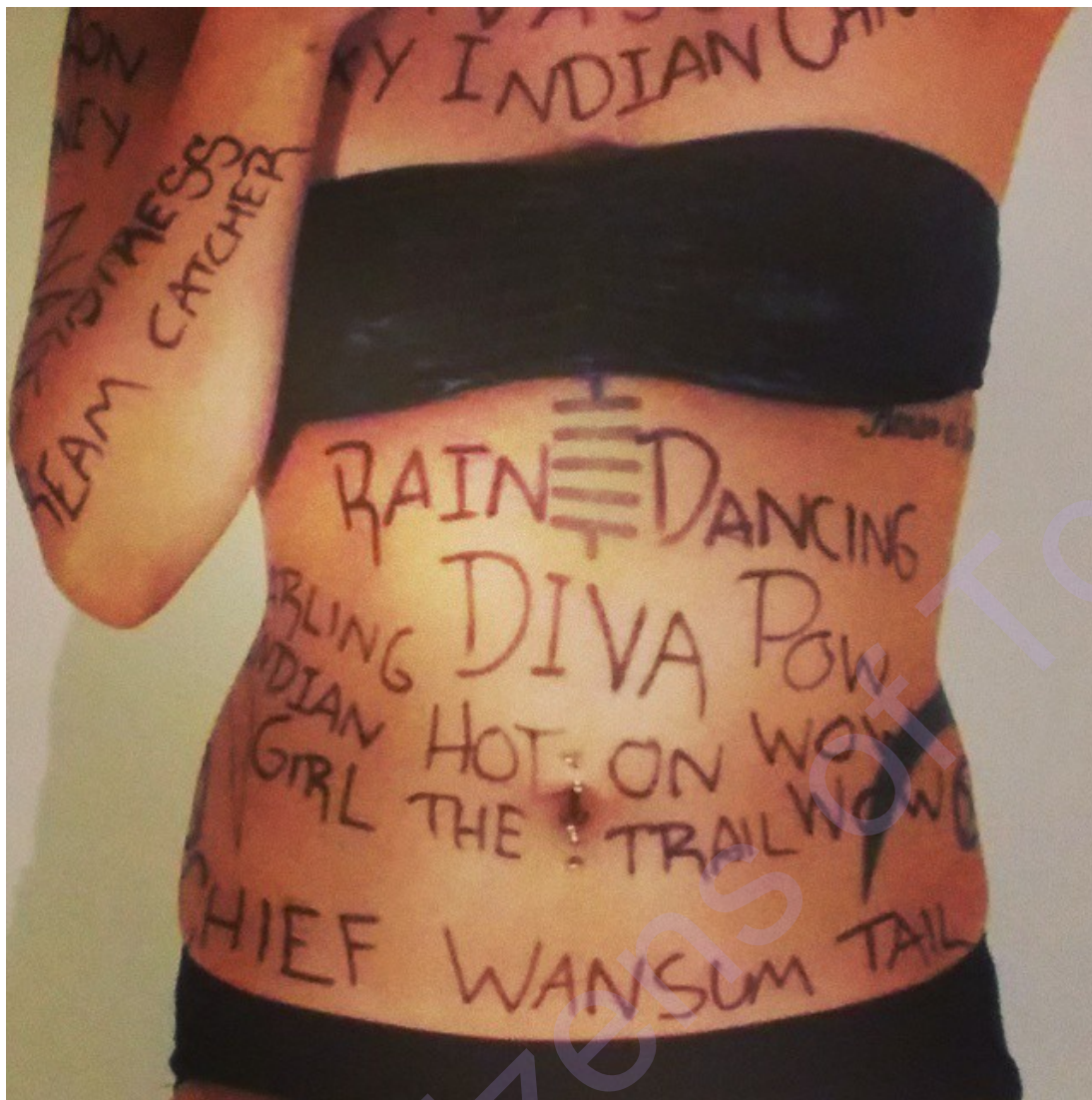


Adapting our traditions: Examining how Indigenous cultures are adapting and morphing





We are the keepers: Exploring the impact of modern consumer culture on traditional values through the eyes of a generation who is impacted daily by globalization



The Gaze: Confronting the objectification and sexualization of Indigenous women's bodies



# ASSERT, DEFEND, TAKE SPACE

Aboriginal youth on identity, activism, and film





Introducing Culture

by Arizona Leger

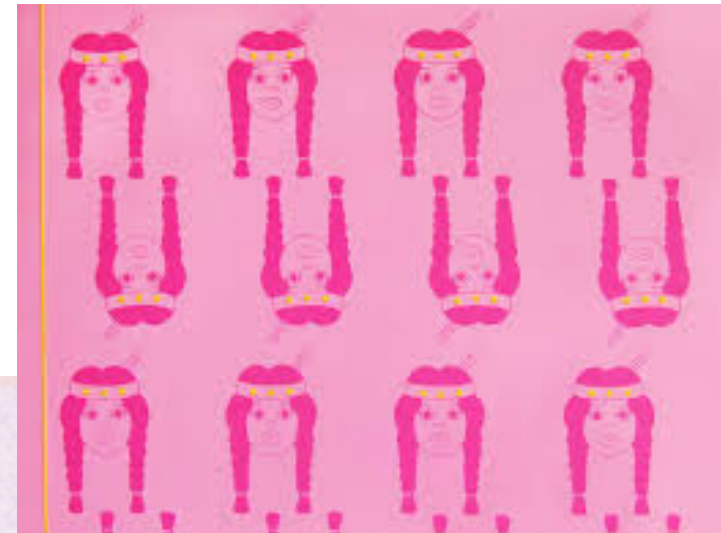
- Fijian / Samoan/ Tongan / Maori

## Introducing Culture by Arizona Leger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mZB17sAXE4>



#claimingspace



Engaging non-Indigenous youth in the conversation

One of the awesome aspects of Claiming space and the assert, defend, take space conference was the way in which other youth engaged with both events and the themes that were being discussed. I was part of the public engagement and education programs surrounding both the exhibition and the conference and had a lot of physical interacting with youth who were in most cases discovering most of these themes for the first time. We encouraged youth to use our hash tag #claiming space so we could keep the conversation going in the social media sphere of youth engagement. When searching the hashtag on Instagram and Twitter I was happy to find that a lot of youth were posting very positive and revelatory comments about their experiences. The films they watched and the artwork was having a huge impact on their views of the Canadian aboriginal landscape.

The very act of having you the view films by youth gave these issues a level of relatability that they had not had before.





Went to

#MOA today for Aboriginal Youth on Identity, Activism and Film. As a Japanese Canadian growing up in an almost all-white neighborhood, I've had my struggles with racism, culture and identity, but it's nothing compared to what the indigenous from BC and around the world have had to put up with, and still do every day. Their strength has taught me so much. I hope I can be part of the revolution, to decolonize and protect our mother earth and all its living things. #claimingspace

## To Recognize Trickster

Trickster was a crafty spirit  
Shape shifting  
Hiding  
Teaching  
Learning  
He took many forms in the past  
Raven, coyote...  
In the past he was

In the present he is  
Today we look around  
His face all around  
He is inside our bodies  
He hides behind our eyes  
Hides behind our eyes  
Our eyes

We see stereotypes through our eyes  
We look at others and judge  
Judge their looks  
Apply the appropriate stereotype  
Act according to that stereotype

It is that trickster that creates stereotypes  
He creates them within our eyes  
So we see nothing but them  
A clever spirit ready to create problems  
Ready to separate  
Ready to judge  
Ready to fight

However we are clever  
We are wise  
We know right from wrong  
We know what hurts  
Know suffering  
Know pain  
Know bad judgment

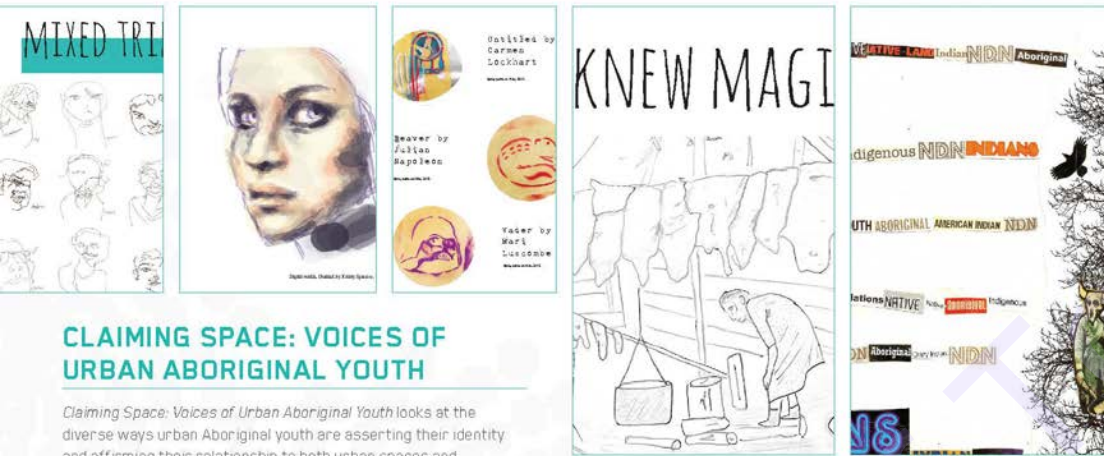
And we know that no is different than know  
That we should say no suffering  
No pain  
No judgment  
And know right from wrong  
We should take it upon ourselves to know people  
To love people  
To cherish our lives with each other  
And to walk with soft steps  
To recognize trickster  
To pull that clever spirit from our bodies  
To clean our eyes with truth  
To know ourselves

It is up to us to know trickster  
And to say no more  
To be idle no more  
To remember the true purpose  
Of trickster's actions  
Which is to teach  
To become knowledgeable  
To say no to stereotypes  
And to know each other

to recognize a trickster. by crystal smith de  
molina (Tsimshian Haisla) MOA. because art is  
important. poetry gives a voice.

[#claimingspace](#) [#crystalsmithdemolina](#) [#poetry](#)  
[#aboriginalart](#)





## CLAIMING SPACE: VOICES OF URBAN ABORIGINAL YOUTH

*Claiming Space: Voices of Urban Aboriginal Youth* looks at the diverse ways urban Aboriginal youth are asserting their identity and affirming their relationship to both urban spaces and ancestral territories. Unfiltered and unapologetic, over 20 young artists from across Canada, the US, and around the world define what it really means to be an urban Aboriginal youth today. In doing so they challenge centuries of stereotyping and assimilation policies. This exhibit will leave visitors with the understanding that today's urban Aboriginal youth are not only acutely aware of the ongoing impacts of colonization, but are also creatively engaging with decolonizing movements through new media, film, fashion, photography, painting, performance, creative writing and traditional art forms. <http://moa.ubc.ca/claimingspace/>

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS

### Zine Making Workshop Grades 8-12

Available Friday 10:30 to 2:30  
Starting October 12 to November 19

In this two hour school program, First Nations writer, Francine Cunningham will lead students through the Claiming Space exhibition, highlighting the exhibition themes of identity and ancestry, stereotyping and culture. Francine will work encourage students to dig deeper into the issues presented in the exhibition and express themselves in their own zine, a DIY magazine that is often focused on unconventional or personal subject matter.

## CLAIMING SPACE SELF-GUIDED TOUR & TEACHER RESOURCE

Bring your class to the exhibition. A self-guided tour is available which includes a teacher resource guide with pre and post visit lessons and activities. It encourages students to examine the exhibition themes of culture, tradition, identity and stereotypes to find relevance within their own lives. Relevant for English 10-11, Social Studies 10-11, Visual Arts 11-12, among others. The Teacher Resource is available in English and French at: [moa.ubc.ca/programs/resources.php](http://moa.ubc.ca/programs/resources.php)

## BOOK TODAY!

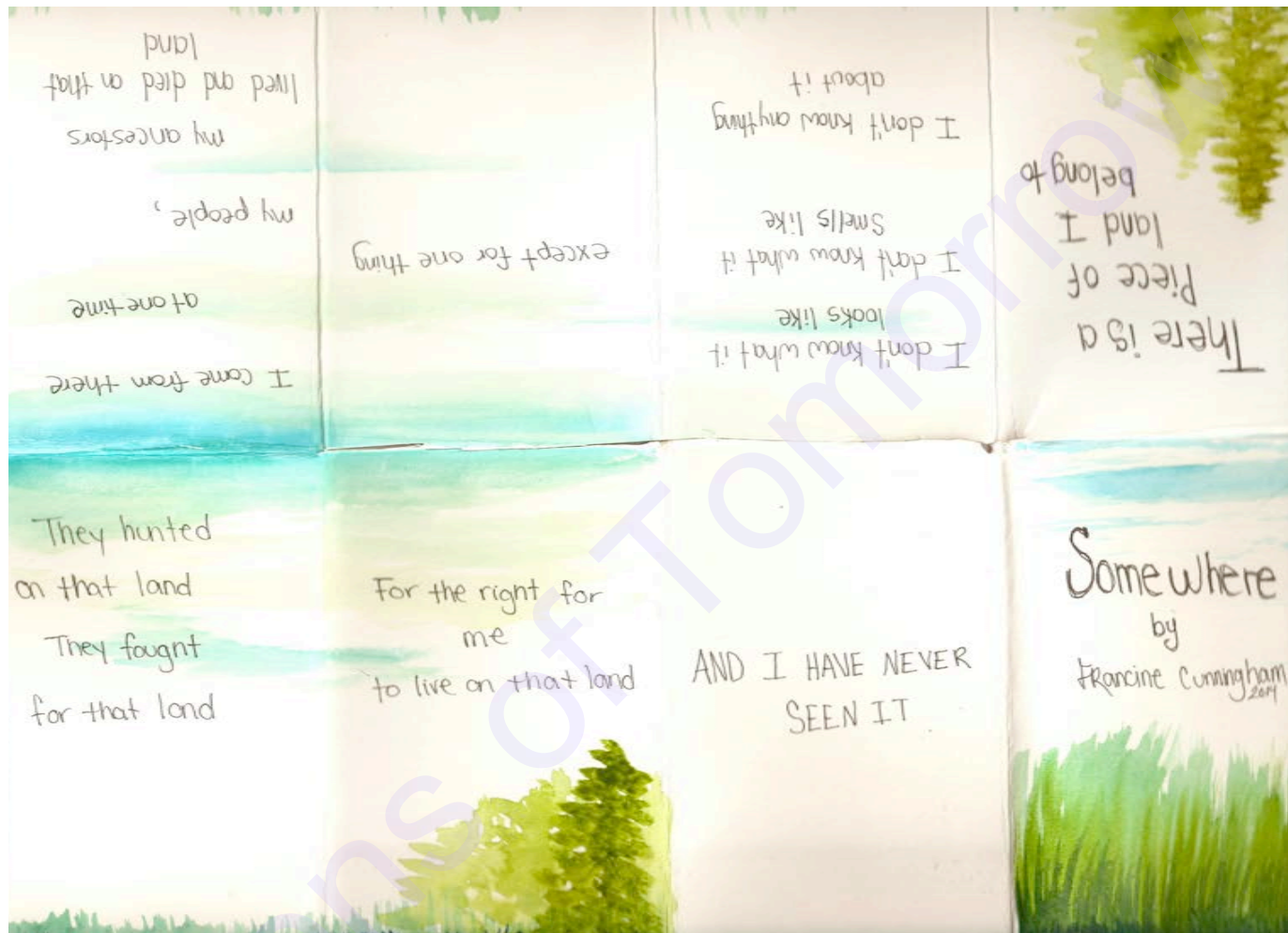
To book your school program or self-guided tour today, please visit [moa.ubc.ca/group-bookings](http://moa.ubc.ca/group-bookings)

Or contact the Bookings Coordinator at  
[bookings@moa.ubc.ca](mailto:bookings@moa.ubc.ca) | 604.822.3825

UBC Museum of Anthropology  
6393 NW Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2  
[moa.ubc.ca](http://moa.ubc.ca)

In terms of public programming Francine Cunningham ran a series of creative writing and visual art tours and workshops in the space. She would take youth from all over the Vancouver mainland and walk them through the space while doing art and writing exercises. The final hour of our sessions would be spent with them creating their own contribution to the exhibition in the form of small zine's that look like chapbooks. They youth wrote poems and added visual drawings to express their feelings about what they had just witnessed.

Images: Native Youth Program, *Mixed Tribes* (details), 2013. Zine.



Creative Writing, Visual art and Zine Making  
Example poem by Francine Cunningham



A thousand  
eyes peer  
at me,  
Judging  
my figure  
and looks.

Isabelle Emery

But did  
they know  
that the  
knowledge I  
contained,  
Was far more  
advanced than  
any books?

2 3

I am not just  
a piece of meat;  
I am a strong  
young  
woman.

I cringe  
and turn  
away

Because I  
can't look  
at them

4

5

How  
different

Our ideal  
of beauty  
would be

3



I'm  
supposed  
to be a  
sexy Indian  
princess?





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