Jack Raymond Smallboy was born in Moose Factory, Ontario on July 10, 1961 to Agnus and Johnny Smallboy. He is a member of the Mushkego ("Swampy") Cree First Nation, also known as the Moose Cree First Nation, and has been gifted with the Cree language. In his words, art has been “my constant companion” (see Switzer 2007), and through it he has survived, healed, and inspired others to reconnect with and respect indigenous ways of living. While he has been producing, showing and selling work (primarily sculptures) consistently over the last 20 years, the weight of trauma from residential schools has been heavy to carry. He is now in a healthy place with the strong family and community support that he needs to work at the volume and scale required to have an impact on a wider audiences.
Maurice Switzer is a citizen of the Mississaugas of Alderville First Nation and a member of the Sons of Jacob congregation in North Bay. He was the first Indigenous student at Trent University, the first Indigenous publisher of a daily newspaper in Canada, and served as director of communications for the Assembly of First Nations and Union of Ontario Indians. Currently a board member of the White Water Gallery, he believes that Canadians will be celebrating the legacy of Tom Thomson long after they have forgotten about Wayne Gretzky.
David Beaucage Johnson is an Anishnaabe artist from Curve Lake. “David’s mix of representational and semi-abstract elements create an environment teeming with the, normally, unseen. It is difficult to visit the “Teaching Rocks” in Peterborough, Ontario without envisioning the ancestral spirits David brings alive on canvas. The locations and landscapes have great significance in the paintings and are a part of the story they tell. David’s richly spiritual paintings have been published in two books of Ojibwe stories by Basil Johnston.”

~excerpt from “Visionary Landscapes,”
Michelle Hendry January 13, 2010

Up the Ante: Indigenous Art Show & Silent Auction

David Beaucage Johnson

[petroglyphs in sky]
[date unknown]
Acrylic on canvas
Gordon Fiddler was born in Cochenour in 1958. He is Oji/Cree. His father was from Sandy Lake First Nation his mother from Sioux Lookout, Ontario. Gordon started painting when he was eight, and made his first sale at ten. His first jobs were painting signs and posters for grocery stores. Encouraged by an elementary school teacher Gertrude Caffée who recognized his talent. He continued painting throughout his teen and adult years. He credits this teacher, who kept encouraging him over the years, for giving him the confidence to pursue an art career. Eventually, his art evolved to painting traditional Anishinaabe images, and today he makes a comfortable living as a commercial artist.

Gordon has had exhibitions in prestigious venues such as the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa, the Canadiana Gallery in Vancouver, and various private and public galleries across the country. His art has also been shown at the Skydome in Toronto, as well as in Germany, Australia and Scotland. Gordon says his future plan is to teach young people all aspects of Traditional Aboriginal Arts.

Up the Ante: Indigenous Art Show & Silent Auction
A Native North American Algonquin, born in Ville-Marie, Quebec in 1952, Frank Polson is a member of the Long Point First Nation (Northwestern Quebec).

Frank is a self-taught artist who produces works of unique beauty, which is relevant to today and in accordance with his heritage. For the last four years he has worked at developing his unique style in the medium of acrylics. He has rekindled his fond memories of many pleasurable and educational seasons, spent on the trap lines with his father and has tried to capture those wonderful memories on canvas among the glorious sunsets and the sounds and feelings of the wilderness’ days and nights. The sound of the “Great Northern Diver” and the cry of the “Timber Wolf” seem to haunt his vision of the beautiful Quebec Northwest.
Jack Raymond Smallboy was born in Moose Factory, Ontario on July 10, 1961 to Agnus and Johnny Smallboy. He is a member of the Mushkego ("Swampy") Cree First Nation, also known as the Moose Cree First Nation, and has been gifted with the Cree language. In his words, art has been “my constant companion” (see Switzer 2007), and through it he has survived, healed, and inspired others to reconnect with and respect indigenous ways of living. While he has been producing, showing and selling work (primarily sculptures) consistently over the last 20 years, the weight of trauma from residential schools has been heavy to carry. He is now in a healthy place with the strong family and community support that he needs to work at the volume and scale required to have an impact on a wider audiences.

Up the Ante: Indigenous Art Show & Silent Auction

Jack Smallboy

Beaver

2014

Ink and pencil on paper
Clayton Windatt is a Métis curator, visual/media artist and independent curator working in Sturgeon Falls, Ontario. He works actively with the Métis Nation conducting educational workshops and volunteering at community events. Clayton holds a BA in Fine Art from Nipissing University and a Graphic Designer certification from Canadore College. He contributes to several provincial and regional organizations as a writer, designer, curator and theatre technician. Clayton’s current artistic body of work explores unclear personal origins focusing on peer pressure within adolescent male bonding and gang violence. Windatt is the treasurer for the Aboriginal Curatorial Collective and represents remote Aboriginal Arts Practitioners. Clayton also maintains contracted positions with Canadore College’s REP21 theatre program, and aids in local arts activities and administration through Aanmitaagzi’s community arts events and founded the Active Arts Festival. He contributes actively as a writer, designer, curator, and theatre technician and is an active visual and media artist.

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Clayton Windatt

Chief Sitting Bull

2015

Mixed media on canvas
Christian Chapman is of Anishnaabeg heritage from Fort William First Nation. His interests include painting, printmaking and film. Chapman uses storytelling as a main theme in his practice to compose his images. The act of storytelling has been an important part of his life; it has informed him of his culture by shaping his identity and personal experiences.

The painting below is called Gichi-Gaazhagens, translated to Great Cat. The work was a result from a short residency at Nipissing University’s Fine Arts & Visual Arts Department, and was originally installed at an outdoor site at Sweetman’s Gardens in North Bay.

Up the Ante: Indigenous Art Show & Silent Auction
Stewart King (Aka Zhengos, Megizi oododem), Wasauksing First Nation, Member of Parks Canada’s Aboriginal Consultative Committee, Parry Sound, Ontario

If we are to consider ourselves as the true caretakers of this land, it is necessary that we live and understand our own culture, history, language and traditional values. The teaching of our Elders must be sought after and honoured. Those with the intimate knowledge and ways of our people and land must be honoured and woven into the very fabric of our lives. The hope, the vitality and the contemporary views of our youth are sought after and needed so that we can move forward in this joint effort.
**Brian J. Waboose** was born January 24, 1955 at Chapleau, Ontario. Brian spent his early childhood amongst his family, seven brothers and one sister on Pic-Mobert reserve in the Thunder Bay area. Brian is an Ojibwe artist known for his colourful paintings symbolic of wildlife, natural phenomena, Indian culture, and human experience in general. Brian is a self-taught painter, who has achieved great success since he began his craft in 1977. His works have been shown at galleries such as: Tom Beckett Gallery, Crystal Art Gallery, and the Woodland Cultural Center. His work has also been displayed at the Royal Ontario Museum, Native Canadian Centre, Anishnabe Health, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, and at Queen’s Park. Many collectors in Germany, Spain, Mexico, the U.S.A., as well as throughout Canada have acquired Brian’s artwork. Today Brian lives with his wife and two children at Birch Island, Ontario.
Maxine Wesley can be best described as an Ojibway traditional artist. She started with painting on canvas in the early 80’s but then switched to textile art later on. She finds joy in thrift shopping and recycling clothing for use in her murals and leather bags. Her extensive collection of buttons, beads and used leather jackets are used to bring texture and light to her art pieces. Maxine is an accomplished, award-winning businesswoman. Her art pieces have been purchased through collectors nationally. Born and raised on Long Lake First Nation, Maxine gets her inspiration through many childhood memories and life’s experiences. Her fondest memories include picking blueberries with her granny, fishing, and trapping. She feels that life is her canvas, the memories such as a calm lake, while paddling down the river with her parents is where she draws inspiration. She works closely with her husband Ed.

Up the Ante: Indigenous Art Show & Silent Auction

Maxine Wesley

Feather
[date unknown]
Felt applique

Produced by Max-Wear: Making Anishinaabe expression.
A Native North American Algonquin, born in Ville-Marie, Quebec in 1952, Frank Polson is a member of the Long Point First Nation (Northwestern Quebec). Frank is a self-taught artist who produces works of unique beauty, which is relevant to today and in accordance with his heritage. For the last four years he has worked at developing his unique style in the medium of acrylics. He has rekindled his fond memories of many pleasurable and educational seasons, spent on the trap lines with his father and has tried to capture those wonderful memories on canvas among the glorious sunsets and the sounds and feelings of the wilderness’ days and nights. The sound of the “Great Northern Diver” and the cry of the “Timber Wolf” seem to haunt his vision of the beautiful Quebec Northwest.
Darlene Isaac-Downey is a Carrier of the Nak'azdli First Nation in Fort St. James, British Columbia, Frog Clan. She has been doing artwork her entire life, but more seriously since 1998. Her artwork is usually done in acrylics, on canvas, drums, paddles and on leather. “In 2001 I was honoured when I was asked to do the cover for the book called Aanji-maajtaawag Kwewag – A New Start For Women. As with all of my artwork I had to wait and let the artwork come to me.” Through her spiritual and artistic practices, Darlene has healed from child abuse by her mother - a residential school survivor - and intimate partner violence at the hands of three partners. She is a student in the Assaulted Women and Children’s Advocate program, and is also writing her biography.

~adapted from Darlene Downey’s story in Spirit Wind 2005-10
Joseph Sagaj is an Ojibwe visual artist currently living in Toronto. Sagaj graduated from the Ontario College of Art and Design (1985) and has since established himself as a respected Aboriginal artist. Sagaj has designed logos for various Aboriginal organizations, including Miziwe Biik, Anishnawbe Health Toronto, Samson Cree First Nation, and the Thunderbird Aboriginal Arts, Culture and Entrepreneur Centre. In 1992, his logo design was selected to represent the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, a logo that continues to be used to this day. Sagaj has painted murals for the OFIFC, Miziwe Biik, Anishnawbe Heath Toronto, INAC, and Neskantaga First Nation School. Sagaj’s primary mediums are watercolour and acrylic.

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Joseph Sagaj

Four Seasons

Watercolour on paper
Mair Greenfield

Facades: Reordering the archive
2015
Mixed media on canvas
Darren Cottrell

Chief Joseph
[date unknown]
Print of drawing
Darren Cottrell

*Chief Sitting Bull*

[date unknown]

Print of drawing
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Unknown

*Tecumseh*

[date unknown]

Engraving on metal plate
Julie Anton

Eyes of the soul
[date unknown]
Print
Clermont Duval

*Slide from the Red Red Forest*

2012

Oil on canvas, sketch & autographed copy of graphic novel