





## VISION STATEMENT

Located on Treaty 7 territory, the traditional land of Niitsitapi (Blackfoot Confederacy), the University of Lethbridge Art Gallery is an accessible space that fosters visibility to the arts through diverse community engagement, supported by sustainable infrastructure, and founded on relationships, consultation, and education.

The University of Lethbridge Art Gallery wants to be the most accessible art gallery in Canada. We want to make a difference in people's lives by providing access for a diversity of people to the art that we house in our collection and that we display. We embrace the Blackfoot teaching that those with knowledge have a responsibility to care for and to share that knowledge.

## ARTISTIC STATEMENT

The artistic vision driving the University of Lethbridge Art Gallery's exhibitions and programs is to generate deeply meaningful engagement with art in order to spark contemplation, learning, and dialogue amongst a diverse group of people.

The three pillars guiding this vision are: 1. Art is relevant – art sparks curiosity, invites learning, and crosses barriers; 2. Art is research – the Art Gallery partners with scholars to study what is involved with effective public engagement and works with artists as long-term research partners; 3. Art is foundation – we can only achieve our goal with a strong foundation of staff, resources, infrastructure, and a well-managed art collection.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our public programs, events, and exhibitions connect diverse communities, contemporary artists, and art collections. Let us give you a place to talk, think, create, and learn. For a meaningful experience, come through our door.





## HIGHLIGHTS

The second year of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to govern ULeithbridge Art Gallery's programming and meant that we had a cautious partial re-opening of in-person activity combined with plenty of online activities. We were grateful for the flexibility and additional support from the Canada Council for the Arts to get through the difficulty of planning during this uncertainty.

With the second round of exceptional support from the Department of Canadian Heritage, we focused on several long overdue conservation projects with artworks in the collection. In total, we contracted 7 conservators, located in Alberta and B.C., to work on 15 artworks.

Collections, curatorial, and students in staff and intern roles embraced the potential of having time to provide access to what goes on behind the scenes in an art gallery. They wrote in-depth blog posts about working to select and prepare artworks from the collection for the contract conservators and about the research process to prepare exhibitions.

Public programming continued to be a mix of online activities and restricted in-person events. Gallery staff were creative in figuring out ways for people to meet while maintaining social distancing or to pick up kits for artmaking projects they could do at home. The staff hit their stride with enhanced approaches to social media and achieved extensive engagement through the Art Gallery's social media channels.

The Art Gallery published *Art, Research, Play: the Midnight Sun Camera Obscura Project*. This hard cover book expanded from a SSHRC-funded research project led by Kamloops artist Donald Lawrence and the subsequent exhibitions that ULeithbridge Art Gallery produced and toured nationally. The book was co-edited by Donald Lawrence, Josephine Mills, and Emily Dundas Oke.



ULETHBRIDGE CENTRE FOR THE ARTS MAIN ENTRANCE.



## EXHIBITIONS

### PROCESSES OF REMEDIATION: ART, RELATIONSHIPS, NATURE

Artist: Alana Bartol

Curator: Josie Mills

January 31 - September 25, 2021

### KINSHIP COMMUNITIES

Works from the ULeithbridge Art Collection

Curator: Ryley Gelinas

February 5 - October 1, 2021

### FROM THE COLLECTION: MARGARET SHELTON

Works from the ULeithbridge Art Collection

Curator: David Smith

October 4, 2021 - January 21, 2022

### EARTH BLANKET

Video Performance

Artist: Kylie Fineday

October 5, 2021

### SEASON'S GREETINGS

Works from the ULeithbridge Art Collection

Curator: David Smith

October 8, 2021 - January 14, 2022

### A GLIMPSE INTO CHINATOWN

Artist: Angeline Simon

Curator: Josie Mills

January 21 - June 10, 2022

### FRAGILE & FAMILIAR

Works from the ULeithbridge Art Collection

Curator: Kelsey Black

January 27 - June 17, 2022





## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

52 EVENTS WITH 1,135 PARTICIPANTS

This year we returned to in-person programming. Old favorites such as Knitting at Noon, ARTLab Saturdays, and late night After Hours were able to happen again. We were also able to host outdoor summer camps, that were enjoyed by all.

One of the most memorable events of the year was the interactive public art piece that we set up for the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Participants were invited to tie an orange ribbon onto a piece of hanging fishing line, giving the illusion that the ribbons were floating in the air. Many university students stopped by to take a quiet moment to tie a ribbon on their way to class.



MAATOMATSKAOHSATAYIWA (WE DID NOT GIVE UP ON THEM) ORANGE RIBBON MEMORIAL EVENT TO HONOUR NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION.



# THE ART COLLECTION

## 5 EXHIBITIONS FEATURED 102 COLLECTION ARTWORKS

ULethbridge Art Gallery held 5 exhibitions using artworks from the collection. In total, 102 collection works by 36 artists were shown. Of those 36 artists, 23 were Canadian artists and 8 of those were Albertan artists.

Kelsey Black and Jordan Hanas were the 2021-22 gallery interns, working on researching and writing biographical information about many of the artists in the ULethbridge art collection; this info is now housed in our collection database. Building on this research, Hanas wrote a series of blog posts for our website based on the Museums Assistance Program (MAP) grant conservation project. Black also used her biographical research to author a series of blog posts about Alberta women artists, and also curated and wrote weekly “Canadian-Art-History-by-the-Decade” social media posts illustrated with artwork from the art collection. In addition, Black curated an exhibition in the Hess Gallery titled, *Fragile and Familiar*, January 27 - June 17, 2022.

The art gallery increased the amount of public programming that displayed artworks from the art collection with our “After Hours” program, and also augmented the programming for the campus-wide Indigenous Awareness Week by displaying 18 works from the collection by 17 Indigenous artists.



ANGELINE SIMON, *A GLIMPSE INTO CHINATOWN*, JANUARY 21 - JUNE 10, 2022.



## ACQUISITIONS

### 14 WORKS ACQUIRED BY CANADIAN WOMEN ARTISTS

In total, 15 works were purchased/donated this past year. One work was by a European artist and 14 of the works were by contemporary Canadian women artists, including 2 Indigenous artists, 1 of whom resides in Southern Alberta.

12 Artworks: *The Birds and Books Series*, digital collage, 2016 by Canadian artist Sarah Fuller, donated by artist.

1 Artwork: *Itsikin*, beaded shoes, 2020 by artist Serene Weasel Traveller.

1 Artwork: *Sedna*, photograph on paper, 2021 by Katherine Takpannie donated by John McEwen in recognition of Diana Lanier.

1 Artwork: *Athena Ready to Depart for Ithaca (The Odyssey No III)*, lithograph on paper (33/50), 1964-65 by Oskar Kokoschka, donated by the estate of Dorothy Kathleen Beckel.



SERENE WEASEL TRAVELLER: *ITSIKIN*.



# GRANTS

GRANT REVENUES: \$214,737

Young Canada Works - \$15,671 - 2 student positions: 1. Graduate Student position in Career Building; 2. Undergraduate position in Arts Research and Programming  
Canada Council for the Arts Core Grant - \$100,000  
Canadian Heritage - Museums Assistance Program (MAP) RECOVERY Fund for Heritage Organization - \$74,111.00  
University Arts London, \$4,955 - for Elder Honoraria payments connected with Mootookakio'ssin events  
Canada Council for the Arts Core Supplement for post-pandemic recovery - \$20,000



YOUNG CANADA WORKS FUNDED UNDERGRADUATE POSITION IN ARTS RESEARCH AND PROGRAMMING  
RECIPIENT LOUISE CAMERON WORKING OUR *AFTER HOURS* EVENT.



# CONSERVATION

ARTWORK CONSERVATION, REPAIR & RESTORATION: \$74,111.00

Total Artworks that received conservation treatment : 15

Conservation materials from suppliers

Working from home allowed time for some in-depth collections projects, the largest of which was funded by a MAP grant of \$74,111.00. We used this money to hire 3 art conservation firms, 7 conservators in all, and 1 picture framer to work on 15 artworks from the ULAG collection in need of treatment conservation. The conservators were Lisa Isley: Bookbinding, Conservation, Art (Calgary); Sophia Zweifel, Objects Conservator (Calgary); and from the firm, Fraser/Spafford Ricci Art and Archival Conservation Inc (Vancouver) conservators Sarah Spafford-Ricci, Valerie Moscato, Christine Foster, Emily Min-Mander, Tara Fraser, and Magdalena Bajek. Collin Brown, Calgary custom framer, also made frames for 2 of the artworks.

While the ULAG collection is in overall very good condition, having some condition issues with artworks is inevitable. In choosing which artworks were to receive conservation treatment we considered the breadth of the collection and chose works that were in high demand; we looked for well-loved works done by leading artists; and another goal was to ensure that the type of damage we brought to the conservation team would be fixable.

Once decided upon, the work was packaged and shipped to the conservators who completed the treatment work within the short time frame of the grant parameters.

Detailed records and photos accompanied the artworks during this whole process and became the basis for Instagram posts, blog posts on our website, instructional material for student interns, and eventually the artworks themselves were included in an exhibition in the Helen Christou Gallery along with the documentation images and info.



FRASER/SPAFFORD RICCI ART AND ARCHIVAL CONSERVATION PERFORMING CONSERVATION WORK ON  
*EAST FROM THE MOUNTAINS*, BY MARION NICOLL.



# ARTISTS

PAID IN ARTIST FEES: \$19,160

## Total Artists: 7

Alana Bartol – June & September/21 workshops at Coutts Centre for Western Canadian Heritage, writing & mentoring fees

Patrick Cote – design fees for *Midnight Sun* publication

Kylie Fineday – artist fees as emerging artist video work *earth blanket*

Lisa Hirmer – launch fee for *Weather Stories*

Latifa Pelletier-Ahmed – June & September/21 workshops at Coutts Centre for Western Canadian Heritage

Angeline Simon – exhibition fees for *A Glimpse Into Chinatown*

Grace Wirzba – Artist-in-Residence fee

*A Glimpse Into Chinatown*, January 21 - June 10, 2022, and *earth blanket*, video premiered October 5, 2021, featured work by local Southern Alberta artists Angeline Simon and Kylie Fineday; projects both created with mentorship support from Alberta artist Alana Bartol.

Due to greatly reduced access to our exhibition spaces, we ran Alana Bartol's exhibition *Processes of Remediation: art, relationships, nature* for an unprecedented 9 months. Funded by the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the project included that Bartol would mentor emerging local artists interested in social practice, with the emerging artists paid research fees as they developed new work. We had to delay this component from the previous year and were excited that Bartol was able to support Kylie Fineday and Angeline Simon in developing new projects. Fineday created a video work, *earth blanket*, to be presented on our website and screened on campus while Simon produced an in-person exhibition, *A Glimpse Into Chinatown*, for our Christou gallery.



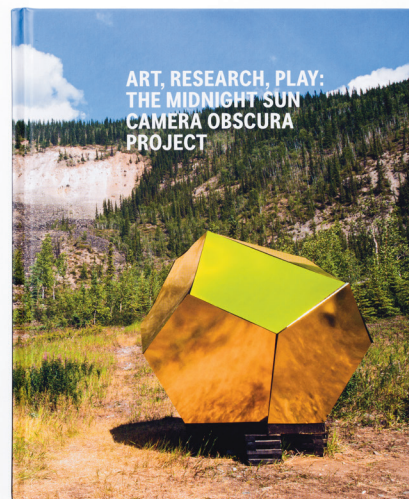
KYLIE FINEDAY'S *EARTH BLANKET*, OCTOBER 5, 2021.



# PUBLICATION

## *ART, RESEARCH, PLAY: THE MIDNIGHT SUN CAMERA OBSCURA PROJECT*

The hard cover book features essays by Louise Barrett, Sven Dupré, Levi Glass, Petran Kockelkoren, Donald Lawrence, and Josephine Mills. Dozens of images give a sense of the experience from the Midnight Sun Camera Obscura Festival (Dawson City, Yukon in 2015) that began the project. As well, there are images of the artworks made for the nationally touring exhibition. The book concludes with a section on the Nanton Camera Obscura, a pavilion-style camera obscura which Lawrence built in a 1920s grain bin at ULeithbridge's Coutts Centre for Western Canadian Heritage.





# MOOTOOKAKIO'SSIN

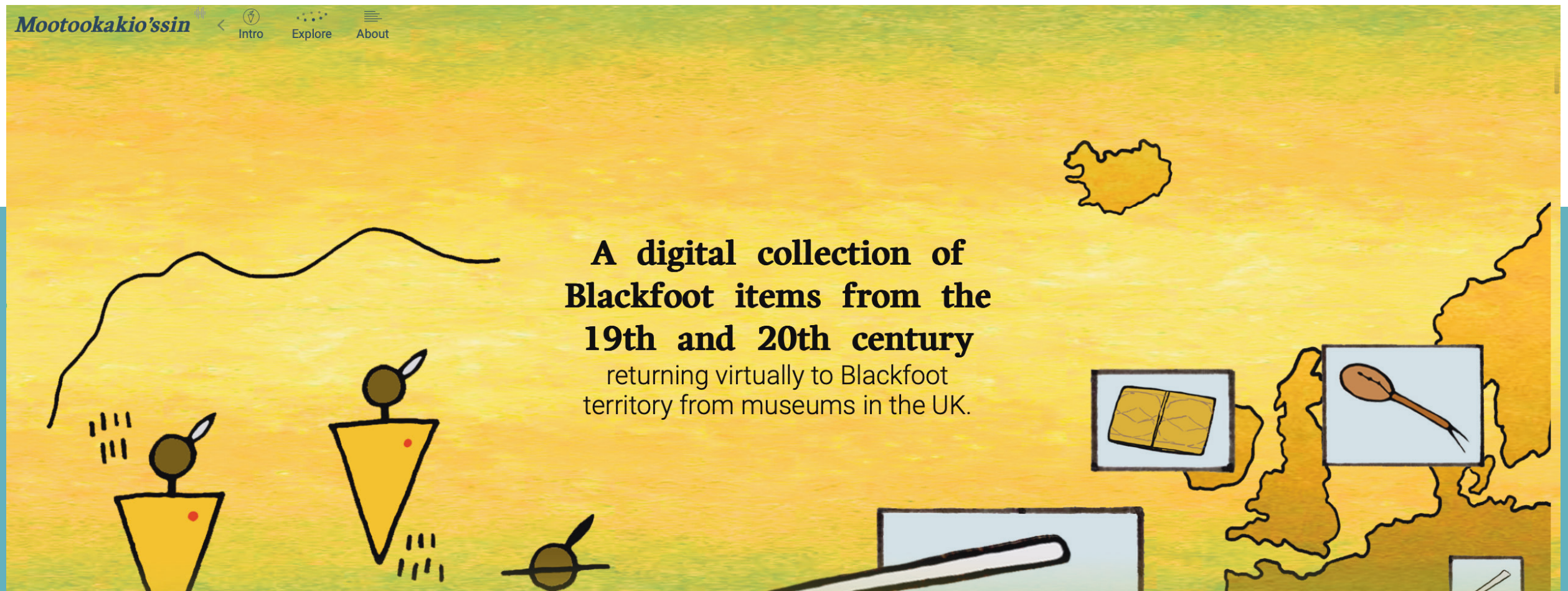
PAID IN BLACKFOOT ELDER ENGAGEMENT: \$8,052

Total Elders involved: 13

Elders from Piikani, Siksika, Amskapi Piikani, and Kainai.

As the pandemic continued, we were grateful that the New Frontiers in Research Fund program, administered by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), granted the team an extension on the project. Although we had to postpone in-person outreach for another year, the Mootookakio'ssin team focused on research with Elders about the historical Blackfoot items held in British museums as well as on developing a website. An unexpected result of the pandemic lockdown, the team members on Blackfoot territory and in Britain developed techniques for virtual visits to museum collections.

Mootookakio'ssin (distant awareness) is a research project that combines hands-on artmaking with digital imaging and web technologies to virtually reconnect Blackfoot items in museum collections in Europe with people living in Blackfoot territory. The project brings together an interdisciplinary team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists and researchers led by Elders from across the Blackfoot Confederacy (Kainai, Piikani, Siksika, Amskapi Piikani). The project is funded by the New Frontiers in Research Fund through SSHRC. Ulethbridge Art Gallery manages the Mootookakio'ssin project and leads the community outreach.





# STAFF

## 6 DIFFERENT STUDENT STAFF EMPLOYED

**Total Part-Time, Summer and/or Temporary Student Staff: 6**

***Midnight Sun* Publication Proofreading: Christa Avram**

**Young Canada Works - Building Careers - Recent Graduate: Kelsey Black**

**Collections & Outreach Assistant: Kelsey Black**

**Young Canada Works - Student Researcher & Programmer - Undergraduate**

**Student: Louise Cameron**

**Curatorial Research Assistant: Oolee Egeesiak**

**Young Canada Works - Building Careers - Recent Graduate: Ryley Gelinas**

**Public Programs Assistant, Undergraduate: Olive Graham**

**Mootookakio'ssin - Project Advisor/Knowledge Keeper: Melissa Shouting**

**Art Gallery Staff**

**Josephine Mills: Director/Curator**

**Jon Oxley: Administrative Manager**

**David Smith: Preparator/Assistant Curator**

**Juliet Graham: Registrar**

**Chad Patterson: Graphic Designer**

**Andrea Kremenik: Curatorial Assistant**

**Kirsten Meiszinger: Public Programmer**

**Staff Professional Development**

**Fundamentals of OCAP training, (Ownership, Control, Access and Possession: a tool to support strong information governance on the path to First Nations sovereignty)  
Algonquin College, April 2021**

**Museum Next: Digital Learning Summit (June 2021), and Digital Collections Summit (October 2021)**

**ULethbridge Alum and former intern, Grace Wirzba returned as a guest artist and created an “ArtLab From Home video” with the gallery.**

**Former staff/intern/volunteer students Kelsey Black and Louise Cameron graduated.**



**CURATORIAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT - OOLEE EEGEESIAK.**



# STATISTICS

TOTAL IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: 4547

## ULETH ART GALLERY ATTENDANCE:

Exhibitions: 3450

Web-based Video or Alternate Exhibitions: 17

Public Programming, Gallery sponsored: 157

Public Programming, Collaborations: 534

Art Camp & related: 80

Tours & Special Events: 309

All Events: 4547 (not including online video views)

## PROGRAMS:

Knitting at Noon: 12 in-Person Events

Culture Vulture From Home: 5 Virtual Events

ARTLab: 2 in-Person / 8 Virtual

After Hours: 3 in-Person Events

En Plein Air: 4 in-Person Events

Alana Bartol Workshops: 2 in-Person Events

Art Camps: 8 Weeks in-Person

Miscellaneous Tours & Programs: 14

## FACEBOOK:

Page Reach: 5,535

Page Visits: 427

New Page Likes: 32

## INSTAGRAM:

Posts: 143

New Followers: 235

Account Reach: 29,547

- a 197.6% increase

Account Visits: 1,778

- a 15% increase







ULAG.CA



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Canadian Patrimoine  
Heritage canadien



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts  
du Canada

