

Manitoulin Island Summer Historical Institute (MISHI) 2020

Mzinbiigewin miinwaa Miingowewziwin / Art & Power

Call for Participants

The History of Indigenous Peoples (HIP) Network, based at York University and housed in the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies, and the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation (OCF), located on Manitoulin Island, is pleased to invite applications for the Manitoulin Island Summer Historical Institute (MISHI), **August 24-31, 2020**. MISHI is an annual event in Anishinaabe Studies that brings together students, teachers, knowledge-holders, artists, and Elders for a week-long summer institute on Manitoulin Island. It is an excellent opportunity to concentrate on a single theme in Anishinaabe Studies while engaging with other scholars and to explore Manitoulin Island. This year we will consider the theme of art and power.

For millennia, Anishinaabeg have expressed their knowledge and culture through art, depicting the relationships among humans, their ancestors, the natural world, ceremony, and spirits. Their history can be traced through changing artistic practices. Anishinaabe artist Barry Ace explains that "As our digital age exponentially transforms and infuses Anishinaabeg culture (and other global cultures) with new technologies and new ways of communicating, we are harnessing and bridging the precipice between historical and contemporary knowledge, art, and power, while maintaining a distinct Anishinaabeg aesthetic and connecting generations."



Barry Ace, Nigik Makiznan: Otter moccasins (2014). Each 134.6 x 15.24 x 15.24 cm, mixed media. Collection of the National Gallery of Canada. Photo: Courtesy of the NGC.

In the image shown here, Ace's "Nigik Makiznan: Otter moccasins" is made with strips of decorated otter hide flowing from the heel of the shoe and are based on the trailer moccasins made by the ancestors to hide their footprints, deleting any trace of their presence. Ace has made his Nigik makiznan for the modern age: the electronic components and extending wires are meant to erase any digital presence while the otter tails/ trails erase the physical tracks. Echoing the Anishinaabe visual language of beadwork, using electronic components, Ace reflects energy transfer and interconnectivity in the natural world of medicinal plants and recognizes the otter's status as a kind and caring being, entrusted with bringing healing to people.

The summer institute will be comprised of three elements. First, participants will participate in lectures, workshops, tours, and demonstrations of Anishinaabe worldviews through art. Five Anishinaabe artists will be featured: **Barry Ace, Michael Belmore, David Miigwans, Mina Toulouse, and Ted Toulouse**. Second, participants will volunteer time to work for the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation on their historical collections, organizing, digitizing, transcribing, and cataloguing research materials, and preparing curriculum materials for public schools. Third, participants will devote some time to formulating their own project, planning and gathering research, and sharing their ideas with fellow participants. The last two days of MISHI will be spent at a local powwow.

Participant spaces are limited. To apply to attend, please complete the application form at the end of this document with a brief letter of introduction explaining why you are interested in attending MISHI 2020 and how your research aligns with this year's theme, and a one-page CV detailing your research interests and experience. Please email your application to carolyn@carolynpodruchny.ca. **Applications are due March 29, 2020.**

There is no registration cost but participants will pay for their travel to and from the island and their lodging and food (although funds are being sought to cover feasts). We will be asking participants to pay \$250 to cover collective meals over the week. Carpooling will be encouraged among participants. Camping is roughly \$45 per night and bnbs and hotels range from \$90 to \$150 a night. We plan to be based at various Indigenous-owned places on the island. Organizers will assist people in arranging both solo and shared accommodation and travel. Plan to spend between \$1000 to \$1500 for the week. Families and children are welcome.

MISHI 2020 Application Form

Name:

Mailing Address:

Email:

Mobile Phone:

Current institutional affiliation and position:

Research Interests: