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Alumna awarded art installation project

Edmonton—MacEwan University is pleased to announce that fine art alumna Brenda Draney’s submission ‘Trapline’ has won the competition for the art installation project in the new Centre for Arts and Culture. Draney is an Edmonton artist who received her Fine Art diploma at MacEwan University before moving on to complete her master’s degree at the Emily Carr University in Vancouver.

Draney will be adhering bronze inserts on the atrium floor of the new Centre for Arts and Culture to depict a trapline. “The jury selected Brenda's proposal because it will be an inspirational piece about history, legacy and remembering,” said Denise Roy, dean, Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications. “It offers rich educational potential for exploration of imagination, overlapping territories and stories, all of which are central to the creation of art and our new Centre for Arts and Culture. We are particularly thrilled to award this commission to an alumnus of our Fine Art program,” added Roy.

“The inspiration comes from my brother-in-law’s father who has a trapline that was handed down from his own father,” says Draney. “I will make several trips with him and make some paintings and take a lot of photos.” From these trips Draney will create a series of large, landscape-based paintings that will reflect various landscapes across northern Alberta. “This region is very familiar to me, northern Alberta looks like home to me,” said Draney.

“The Alberta Foundation for the Arts is honoured to assist in the commission of this artwork by Draney, a talented emerging artist whose work conveys her family’s proud legacy,” said Joan Udell, board chair, Alberta Foundation for the Arts. “Her work intersects Aboriginal culture and contemporary visual art to weave a narrative that resonates with many people.”

The year Draney graduated from the Emily Carr University in 2009 she also was named the winner of the RBC Canadian Painting Competition. Last year her exhibition, Suspend, at the Art Gallery of Alberta won the Eldon and Anne Foote Visual Arts Award, and she will be exhibiting her work as part of the Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art later this year.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

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