October 2, 2017

Brenda Draney’s Trapline unveiled

Edmonton – The historical and cultural significance of a trapline is often misunderstood by non-Indigenous Canadians. But, for the First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities the “trapline” is a symbol of their traditional way of life.

After a three-year labour of love, artist Brenda Draney is ready unveil her seminal art installation, Trapline in Allard Hall on MacEwan University’s City Centre Campus. Draney’s inspiration comes from her brother-in-law’s father who has a trapline in the Slave Lake area. In a statement on her website, the artist described the concept behind the project:

“The stories around traplines and hunting are deeply connected to people within small northern communities within Alberta who see Edmonton as their own city, the city they return to throughout their own lives. To reference that in a new building for the arts, for students, many of whom come from other communities to attend (like I did), is important. This is what can make a new facility a meaningful place."

The installation is comprised of three major components. Embedded into the main floor of Allard Hall’s central atrium is a bronze outline, mapping the boundaries of her brother-in-law’s trapline, showing the vastness of the area. The second is a series of large paintings that reflect the landscape of the trapline throughout the course of the year. The third component is a traditional hunters cabin that will hang from the roof of Allard Hall.

“The AFA is pleased to support the creation of this magnificent new public artwork through the Public Art Commission funding opportunity. We were pleased to work with MacEwan University to facilitate an original and incredibly meaningful new work by Brenda Draney for students and audiences alike at Allard Hall. This work will be added to the AFA’s permanent art collection, and will be cared for and maintained for the benefit of all Albertans for years to come,” said Liam Oddie, chair, Alberta Foundation for the Arts.

Draney is an Edmonton-based artist who grew up in Slave Lake and is a member of the Sawridge First Nation. She received her Fine Art diploma from MacEwan and then completed her master’s degree at the Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver. In 2009, the same year she received her master’s degree, she was named the winner of the RBC Canadian Painting Competition. Her 2014 exhibition, Suspend, at the Art Gallery of Alberta won the Eldon and Anne Foote Visual Arts Award.

When: Thursday, October 5
Where: Allard Hall (11110-104 Avenue)
Time: 10:30 – 10:55 (media tours/interview with Brenda Draney)

Formal ceremony gets under way at 11 a.m. – 12 Noon

For further information, please contact:
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Get MacEwan University news delivered to your inbox. Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter.
The opening of Allard Hall in September 2017 marks the beginning of a year of celebration for MacEwan University. With the relocation of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications to City Centre Campus, our university community has come together in downtown Edmonton. Allard Hall features exciting new purpose-built learning spaces for students and dynamic performance and exhibition spaces for the community, including a 419-seat theatre, theatre lab, recital hall, art gallery and recording studio. MacEwan University is moving the arts downtown. MacEwan.ca/ComeTogether.

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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