October 29, 2018

Indigenous art project will focus on land and water protection

Edmonton – Over two days, two renowned artists, Christi Belcourt and Isaac Murdoch, will create a large-scale painting (5’ x 9’) that will be permanently housed in MacEwan University’s kihêw waciston Indigenous Centre.

“It’s important for our new space to display art from various Indigenous artists who tell an important story that will create educational learning opportunities for our students,” said Terri Suntjens, director, Indigenous Initiatives, MacEwan University. “This piece will open conversations that speak to the importance of land and water protection and our role and responsibility as we have to ensure we take care of mother earth as our ancestors have done before us.”

Belcourt and Murdoch are creating paintings and murals across Canada to raise funds for a language and arts-based cultural camp for Indigenous youth. “Their art speaks to the importance of respecting the land and the reclamation of traditional ways of Indigenous peoples,” added Suntjens. “Part of the university’s role in reconciliation is also supporting initiatives like this that create opportunities for these camps that are developed and taught by Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and communities.

About the artists

Belcourt is a Michif visual artist. The majority of her work explores and celebrates the beauty of the natural world. Her work is found within the permanent collections of the National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario, Gabriel Dumont Institute, and the Canadian Museum of Civilization. In 2014 she was named Aboriginal Arts Laureate by the Ontario Arts Council.

Murdoch is from the Serpent River First Nation and grew up in the traditional setting of hunting, fishing and trapping. He is a respected storyteller and traditional knowledge holder. For many years he has led various workshops and cultural camps that focuses on the transfer of knowledge to youth. His other passions include traditional Ojibway paint, symbolism, ceremonial knowledge, cultural camps, and oral history.

Media is invited to view the final product and discuss the painting with the artists:

When: Tuesday, October 30
Time: 3 p.m.
Where: kihêw waciston Indigenous Centre, 7 - 131 (Building 7, room 131) MacEwan University

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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