

FOREMAN

GALERIE D'ART DE L'UNIVERSITÉ BISHOP'S



Photo credit:

Sonny Assu. *The Away Team Beams Down to What Appears to Be an Uninhabited Planet*. (Digital intervention on an Emily Carr painting, archival pigment, print), 2016. Image courtesy of the artist.

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FABULOUS IMAGES. WHEN FICTION TAKES ROOT

January 16th to March 21st, 2020

Artists: Sonny Assu, Danis Goulet, The Iyapo Repository, Larissa Sansour & Søren Lind, Skawennati

Curators: Gentiane Bélanger & Alexandra Tourigny-Fleury

Sherbrooke, January 8th, 2020

Fabulous Images. When Fiction Takes Root examines the hermeneutical scope of science fiction as a narrative genre in the context of emancipatory discourses that foster ethnocultural diversity. The exhibition features works by Canadian and international artists, novels, posters, popular films, video games and collectibles, all of which are at the juncture of sci-fi and identity politics. Touching on a vast array of representation, from the utopian refuge to the darkest dystopias by way of uchronian narratives and social speculations, *Fabulous Images* examines how fiction reveals the possibilities of alternative existences.

Iyapo Repository is a resource library that houses a collection of digital and physical artifacts created to affirm and project the future of people of African descent. Their special collections and archives house manuscripts, films, drawings, rare media, and more. **Iyapo Repository** offers opportunities for people of African descent to generate and build technological cultural artifacts of their future. The project is situated between physical and digital spaces, between the present and the future. It asks us to reimagine notions

Opening reception

Thursday, January 16th, from 5 to 7 p.m.

of race, identity and culture through technological artifacts as they travel through time and place. The **Repository** was built as means to preserve the digital histories and legacy of people of African descent.

Free entrance

Tuesday to Saturday

From 12 to 5 p.m.

Skawennati makes art that addresses history, the future, and change from her perspective as an urban Kanien'kehá:ka woman and as a cyberpunk avatar. Her early adoption of cyberspace as both a location and a medium for her practice has led to groundbreaking projects such as CyberPowWow and TimeTraveller™. **Skawennati** is best known for her machinimas—movies made in virtual environments—but also produces still images, textiles and sculpture. Born in Kahnawà:ke Mohawk Territory, **Skawennati** belongs to the Turtle clan. She holds a BFA from Concordia University in Montreal, where she resides. She is Co-Director, with Jason Edward Lewis, of Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace (AbTeC), a research-creation network of artists, academics and technologists investigating, creating and critiquing Indigenous virtual environments. They also direct the Skins workshops on Aboriginal Storytelling and Digital Media which aim to empower Indigenous youth to be producers, not just consumers, of video games and related media. In 2015, AbTeC launched IIF, the Initiative for Indigenous Futures. Her works have been presented in Europe, New Zealand, Hawai'i, China and across North America in major exhibitions such as "Uchronia | What if ?", in the HyperPavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale; at B3 Biennale of the Moving Image in Frankfurt, Germany; "Now? Now!" at the Biennale of the Americas; and "Looking Forward (L'Avenir)" at the Montreal Biennale. They are included in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada, the National Bank of Canada and the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, among others.

Sonny Assu (Ligwilda'xw of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nations) was raised in North Delta, BC, over 250 km away from his home ancestral home on Vancouver Island. Having been raised as your everyday average suburbanite, it wasn't until he was eight years old that he discovered his Ligwilda'xw/Kwakwaka'wakw heritage. Later in life, this discovery would be the conceptual focal point that helped launch his unique art practice. **Assu's** artistic practice is diverse: spanning painting, sculpture, photography, digital art and printmaking. **Sonny** negotiates Western and Kwakwaka'wakw principles of art making as a means of exploring his family history and the experiences of being an Indigenous person in the colonial state of Canada.

Assu received his BFA from the Emily Carr University in 2002 and was the recipient of their distinguished alumni award in 2006. He received the BC Creative Achievement Award in First Nations art in 2011 and was thrice long-listed for the Sobey Art Award. He received his MFA from Concordia University in 2017 and was one of the Laureates for the 2017 REVEAL - Indigenous Art Awards. His work has been accepted into the National Gallery of Canada, Seattle Art Museum, Vancouver Art Gallery, Museum of Anthropology at UBC, Burke Museum at the University of Washington, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Hydro Quebec, Lotto Quebec and in various other public and private collections across Canada, the United States and the UK.

Larissa Sansour was born in 1973 in East Jerusalem, Palestine, and studied Fine Arts in London, New York and Copenhagen. Her work is immersed in the current political and interdisciplinary; hers dialogues utilizes video, photography, installation, the book form and the internet. Central to her work is the tug and pull between fiction and reality. She represented Denmark at the 58th Venice Biennial. Recent solo exhibitions include Turku Art Museum in Finland, Photographic Center in Copenhagen, Galerie Anne de Villepoix in Paris, Kulturhuset in Stockholm, Lawrie Shabibi in Dubai, Sabrina Amrani in Madrid and DEPO in Istanbul. **Sansour's** work has featured in the biennials of Istanbul, Busan and Liverpool. She has exhibited at venues such as Tate Modern, London, Centre Pompidou, Paris; LOOP, Seoul; Al Hoash, Jerusalem; Queen Sofia Museum, Madrid; Centre for Photography, Sydney; Cornerhouse, Manchester; Townhouse, Cairo; Maraya Arts Centre, Sharjah, UAE; Empty Quarter, Dubai; Galerie Nationale de Jeu de Paume, Paris; Iniva, London; Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris; Third Guangzhou Triennial, Guangzhou, China; Louisiana Museum of Contemporary Art, Denmark; House of World Cultures, Berlin, and MOCA, Hiroshima. **Sansour** currently lives and works in London, UK.

Soren Lind is a Danish author. He writes children's books and literary fiction. With a background in philosophy, **Lind** wrote books on mind, language and understanding before turning to fiction. He has published a novel and two collections of short stories as well as four children's books. In addition to his literary production, **Lind** is a visual artist, director and screenwriter. Recent credits include MoMA (US), Barbican (UK), Nikolaj Kunsthal (DK), Berlinale (D), International Film Festival Rotterdam (NL), BFI London Film Festival (UK) and Studio Museum in Harlem (US). He lives and works in London, UK.

Danis Goulet is a Cree/Métis writer and director. Her award-winning short films have screened at festivals around the world including the Berlin International Film Festival, Sundance Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), MoMA, imagineNATIVE and Aspen Shortsfest. She is the former Executive and Artistic Director of the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, and currently programs Canadian features for TIFF. She is also an advisor for the Telefilm Canada Indigenous Working Group, a member of the Indigenous Screen Office's Advisory Circle, and was recently invited to become a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS). Her feature script Night Raiders has received development funding from the Sundance Institute and was selected for the International Financing Forum at TIFF 2018. **Danis** is originally from Saskatchewan and now lives in Toronto.

Additional
information can be
found online:
[www.foreman.ubishops
.ca/exhibitions/](http://www.foreman.ubishops.ca/exhibitions/)

The artists and the curators will discuss their work with the visitors at 5:30pm on the night of the opening reception.

Co-produced by the Foreman Art Gallery and Sporobole, with the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Sherbrooke and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

The Foreman Art Gallery wishes to thank the artists and the Sporobole Art Centre for their collaboration.



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