

April 28, 2023

grunt gallery
#116 - 350 East 2nd Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5T 4R8

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this application for an exhibition at Grunt Gallery. You will find enclosed:

My Project Proposal and A Statement of my Artistic Practice
5-10 images at 72 dpi
Vimeo link to an example of the finished Installation
A current Curriculum Vitae
Additional Support Materials

I believe grunt gallery is an excellent place to show my work because of the intimacy of the space, as well as the values the gallery and I share. Specifically, the decolonization practices and values, as well as work with multiple indigenous artists fairly recently.

Being located in Vancouver, I believe this gallery space is an excellent area to showcase my work, as Vancouver is a wonderfully multicultural city, I believe that it would allow access to a lot of different groups of people that is hard to find in other cities.

The grunt galleries venue is excellent for the installation I would like to show. The high ceilings and intimate space is an area that I think would lend itself nicely to the construction and theming of the installation. I have attached my idea and all information required, and would love to speak further if you are interested.

Thank you for your consideration,

Paula Ducharme

Proposal

I would like to show my installation work in your gallery. The work I want to display has a few components: 2 wall hanging sculptures, a standing sculpture, a short throw video projection and an audio component. I want to create a meditative space for people to listen and appreciate my culture. The ideal space is a 12' x 12' x 8' tall room painted a pale blue-grey, including the floor. In the center is the main artwork, a white beaded buckskin dress on a mannequin. Around the bottom of the dress are rocks spreading outward as a natural barrier to keep people from stepping too close. The ceiling has a projection on a slightly sheer fabric the same size as the room. The projection should fill the entire ceiling space. The projection is a slowly rotating image that fades in and out of 2 images of a grove of trees from below, and a diagram that explains the theology of my culture. The entrance of the room will be a single open doorway, approximately 4' in width. On either side of the doorway will be 2 sculptures. There should be some seating to invite people to sit and listen to the story being told, but enough space that invites the person to walk around the main sculpture. The installation invites people to sit and listen to the story of "The Great Race", a lakota story of a race around the black hills that decided the fate of humanity. This particular story is illustrated on the bottom of the dress in beadwork. The 2 sculptures depict important characters in lakota culture. Iktomi, the spider trickster, and Maka, mother earth. For my work, I will require a short throw projector, a small speaker that can be placed on the inside of the dress (12x12" space). A large piece of fabric that is able to fit a 12x12' room. I will also need wall and floor paint and I will provide the colour match for that.

Artist Statement

My work explores the relationship between my indigenous cultural evolution and identity. I am Birdtail Sioux of the Lakota Nation in Manitoba, however I grew up on the coast. In doing this project I have been able to connect more with my culture, primarily through the act of beading. I have used a combination of light, sound, video, and texture to create an immersive atmosphere that both celebrates and shares my heritage. With influences from glitzy stage costumes, complex narrative stories, vibrant colour and stories from home, I have created a sacred space that welcomes you into the embrace of my indigenous culture. When I was younger, I often felt disconnected from my own culture, and as an extension, my identity. Creating this installation allowed me to reconnect with my culture and create that same sacred space that my culture takes in me. Something that evokes a sense of security and pride. A large aspect of my culture is based around a sense of community. In creating this work, I was able to share this experience with my Mother and my Auntie Jo, who helped me bead and were able to tell our stories in our native language. Specifically, the story of The Big Race, which relates to the creation of the Lakota people. This space allowed me to explore my heritage and my skills as an artist, being able to ponder over generations of work, and contrast that with my own was a

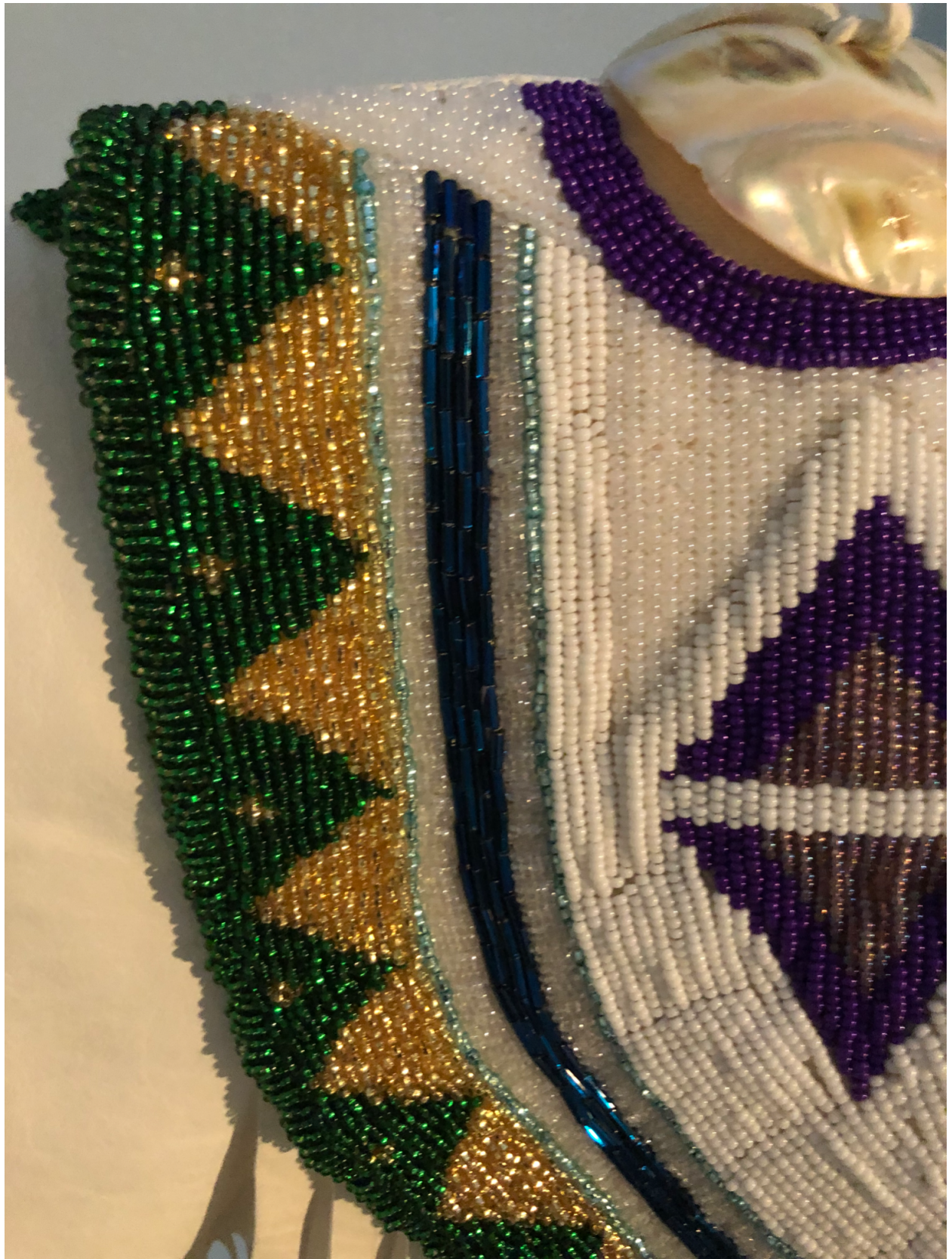
very emotional experience. With this work, I was able to test the limits of my skill as an artist and learn new skills such as beading and installation work.

Image Description Sheet

Artist Name	Title of Work	Dimensions	Year	Medium
Paula Ducharme	Creation Dress	5' standing 1x1.5' depth	2023	White Buckskin, seed beads, bone beads
Paula Ducharme	Iktomi	2x2.5'	2023	Round canvas, hardboard, acrylic paint, high gloss varnish, turkey feathers, floral sticks, cording.
Paula Ducharme	Maka	1.5x2'	2023	Hardboard, acrylic paint, high gloss varnish, floral sticks, turkey feathers
Paula Ducharme	Rotation	12x12' space	2023	Digital video projection and audio onto fabric

















Prince Dordane
"Dordane" (2013)
Feathers, cotton, wool, acrylic, wood, glass, paper
100 x 100 x 10 cm
Installation view, Prince Dordane, 2013



Native American
Headdress
Cutout

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Cutout