

April 28, 2023

Kelowna Art Gallery  
1315 Water Street  
Kelowna, BC, Canada  
V1Y 9R3

Dear Clea Haugo,

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

My Project Proposal and A Statement of my Artistic Practice

10 images at 72 dpi

Vimeo link to an example of the finished Installation

A current Curriculum Vitae

Additional Support Materials

I believe Kelowna Art Gallery is an excellent place to show my work because of its focus on contemporary canadian art, as well as its large focus on education, and I believe my work suits these values. My work showcases my own culture in a way that aims to educate and resonate through contemporary art installation practices.

Being located in Kelowna, I believe this gallery space is an excellent area to showcase my work, as the KAG also located in the heart of the cultural district, I believe that it would allow a more diverse group of people to access my work regularly.

The Kelowna Art Gallery venue is excellent for the installation I would like to show. The high ceilings and large 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

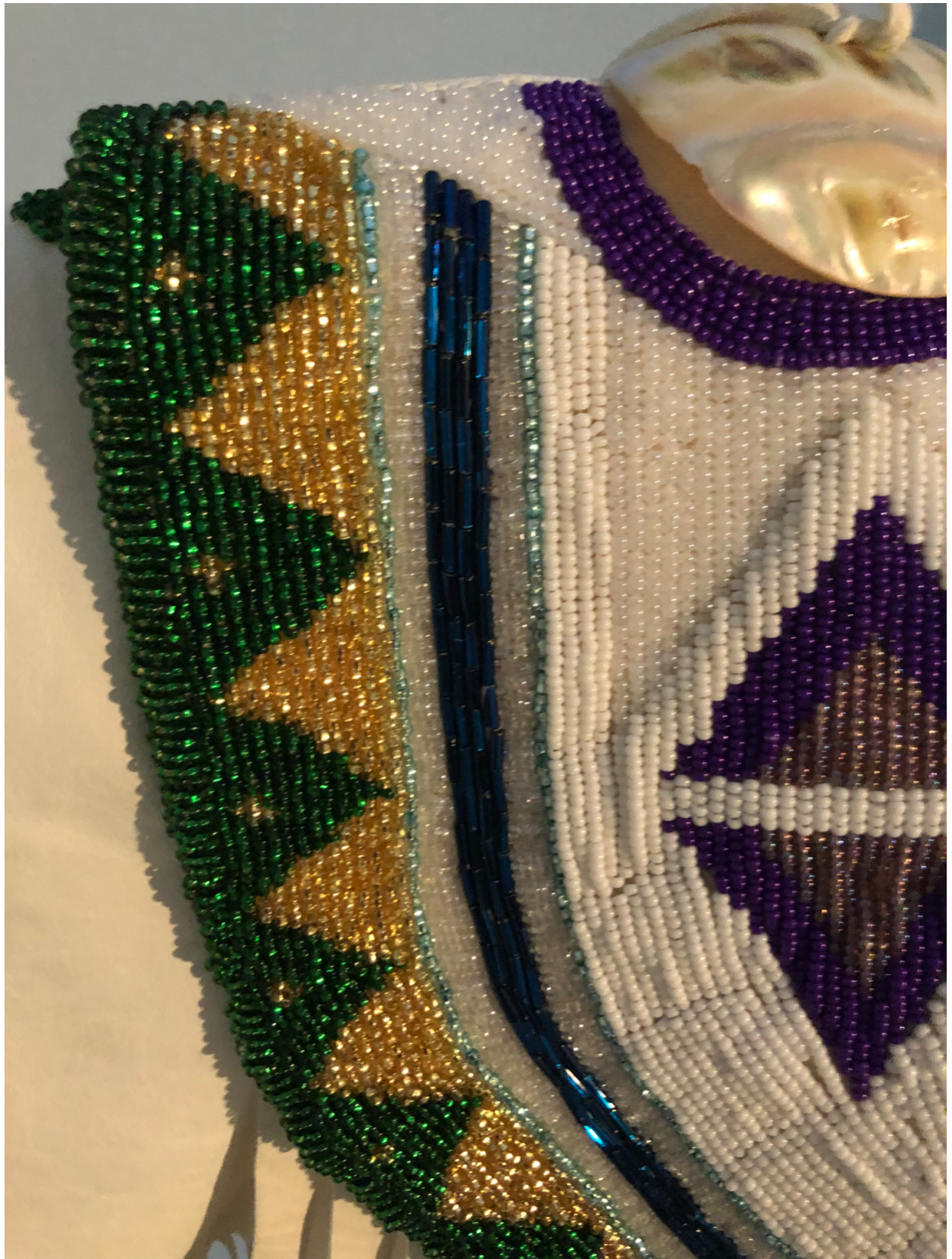








































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