

Open Call Ksahkomiitapiiks 2024-2025

Ksahkomiitapiiks is an annual residency of dynamic public programs and responsive artworks that interrogate and nurture our relationships with the land. This series is an introspection on our ever-evolving languages and ordinance of how we choose to honour the land we occupy, as well as our ancestral custodians.

After a successful first year with Star Crop Eared Wolf, we are pleased to announce the second year of the *Ksahkomiitapiiks* artist residency with an Open Call to all Niitsitapi artists, working and creating on Blackfoot land. The 2024 artist-in-residence will have the opportunity to learn from and share knowledge with this year's mentor Faye HeavySheild as well as other members of the Advisory Committee that include Elder Clarence Wolfleg, Adrian Stimson and Star Crop Eared Wolf. The format is largely collaborative, where learnings are shared and celebrated, and the resulting 'artwork' is developed over the course of the year, beginning in June 2024. The resident artist will not physically be in-residence at Contemporary Calgary, spending more time on the land and with the Niitsitapi community.

Eligibility:

- Early to mid-career Niitsitapi artists working and creating on Blackfoot land are encouraged to apply.
- Artists working across all media, including (but not limited to) painting, sculpture, image-making, installation, film, video, sound, text, performance, and other time-based forms are eligible to apply.
- Independent artists, artist collectives and collaborations are welcome to apply

Submission documents:

- An outline of the research project you intend to undertake as part of this residency. This can be a written text, a video, or an audio recording.
- Brief artist statement. This can be a written text, a video, or an audio recording.
- Bio (200 words or less).
- 4-5 images/ documentation of previous work.

Please send your submission documents to curatorial@contemporarycalgary.com.

Important Dates:

The application deadline is April 30, 2024.

The 2024 *Ksahkomiitapiiks* resident will be announced in June, 2024.

The artist-in-residence will share their ongoing research as an artwork, or as a public program (performance, lecture, presentation, material object, text, workshop etc.) at least once within the following dates:

July - September 2024

September- November 2024

November 2024- January 2025

January- March 2025

April (closing program)

If you have any questions about the residency, please send an email to curatorial@contemporarycalgary.com.

Advisory Committee:

This year's edition of *Ksahkomiitapiiks* was developed in consultation with an Advisory Committee of Indigenous Community Members and Elders that includes Faye HeavyShield, Clarence Wolfleg Sr, Adrian Stimson, and Star Crop Eared Wolf (the inaugural *Ksahkomiitapiiks* resident).

About Ksahkomiitapiiks (Earth Beings):

Ksahkomiitapiiks, interpreted in English as "Earth Beings," is an inclusive term serving as both a noun and a verb; embodying who we are and what we create as guests on this earth. An invocation for a blessing whenever spoken – a call for prayer, witness and inspiration, we are *Ksahkomiitapiiks*.

Each annual artwork is offered to be placed in the center of Contemporary Calgary's atrium, over Helena Hadala's original Mosaic (1979), a piece that represents the Earth with Calgary at its center. However, presentation formats and placement is always a discussion with the artist so as to best represent the work and the artist's vision.

We'd like to invite the larger Contemporary Calgary family and community, which includes visitors and members, to also reflect on the land. This reflection is dependent on a grounded understanding in the past and the future, in knowing who we are today has been informed by those who lived before us, and who will become is dependent on who we are right now. It is time to understand what it means to acknowledge the land and honour our relationships to Mother Earth and her keepers. Under the guidance and understanding of artists and elders, we will explore what it means to be *Ksahkomiitapiiks*.