



Mouse Woman, Luke J. Parnell

The Beat

*A monthly newsletter about the art of
First Nations on Canada's West Coast*

**We respectfully acknowledge the Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional
unceded territories we live and work, and all the First Nations of the Pacific coast.**

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**This is the 103rd issue of The Beat, a free, independent newsletter that brings you
up-to-date on the art, artists and art events of the First Nations on Canada's
Pacific Coast.**



Darlene Gait, BC Ferries' The Salish Orca

Esquimalt artist **Darlene Gait**, commissioned by the BC Ferries to design the hull of a new ferry, has now had a chance to see the completed project. The three new natural gas and diesel-powered ferries were built in Poland. The *Salish Orca*, Ms. Gait's project, is in Tswassen for training sessions. The *Salish Eagle* designed by **John Marston** of the Stz'uminus First Nation is expected in BC in March, and *Salish Raven*, by Musqueam **Thomas Cannell**, will arrive in May 2017.

The figurative work was applied to the hull on a massive decal, and a time-lapse video of the process is on the BC Ferries website at <http://www.bcferrries.com/about/intermediatevessel.html>



The **Vancouver Art Gallery** has organized a major new exhibition, ***Susan Point: Spindle Whorl***. On view from February 18 to May 28, 2017 at the Gallery, this exhibition covers the artist's impressive career of three and a half decades, including over a hundred print and sculptural artworks that take the spindle whorl as their starting point. The Coast Salish spindle whorl has been a persistent motif in Point's work since the beginning of her career. Traditionally, the whorl was used by Coast Salish women to ritually prepare wool that would be woven into robes. Point has often drawn upon the spindle whorl and the motifs carved into it to provide a formal structure for her art. She uses a uniquely Salish vocabulary of circles, crescents and curved triangles, elements that distinguish the art of her people from the formline-based art of northern First Nations peoples.

The exhibition is accompanied by a 160-page book of essays on Point's work.

http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/the_exhibitions/exhibit_point.html



Two major events in Indigenous performing arts on the BC coast are coming up. The **Talking Stick Festival** from February 16 to 26, 2017. It includes a wide range of cultural expression. This year a visual arts exhibition has been organized for the Roundhouse in Vancouver's Yaletown. On event of special interest is an Arts Funding Information Session on February 16 at 1:30 pm. The Canada Council for the Arts, First Peoples' Cultural Council and BC Arts Council will outline their programs. The Canada Council will offer valuable information about their new funding model, including details for Indigenous artists looking to register in the Council's online portal.



The Art Exhibition at an earlier Talking Stick Festival

Featuring a collection of artworks from 11 multidisciplinary artists of Indigenous ancestry, the exhibition Kwèykw`áystway: Speaking With One Another attempts to create generative spaces for contemplation and conversation using the variety of expression found in Indigenous art today. The exhibition is at 181 Roundhouse Mews in Yaletown from its opening on Wednesday, February 15 at 7 pm to February 25, 2017. For more see <http://fullcircle.ca/2567-2/>



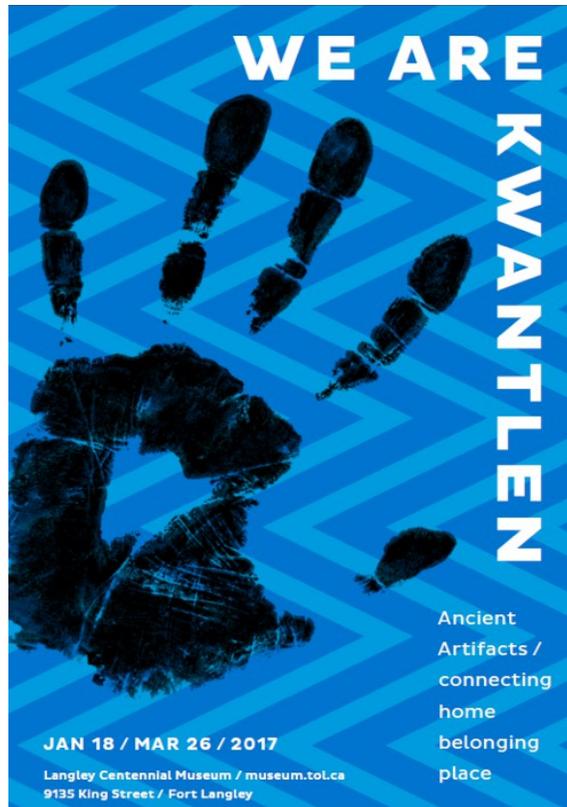
The 2017 **Coastal First Nations Dance Festival** will be presented by the **Dancers of Damelahamid** at the **Museum of Anthropology** on March 3 and the evening of March 4.

For more about the rich and creative program at MOA, see <http://damelahamid.ca/coastal-dance-festival>



Don Yeomans, *Dream Traveller*
Alcheringa Gallery

In Victoria, the **Alcheringa Gallery** presents *Raven Visiting*, a show of prints by senior Haida artist **Don Yeomans**, from February 11 to 25, 2017. An online catalogue is at <http://www.alcheringa-gallery.com>



An intensive look at **Kwantlen** First Nation history and culture is showing now in Fort Langley at the **Langley Centennial Museum**, until March 26 2017.

“Important artifacts are not just made of stone and bone- they are also the living legacies of language and art, ceremony and personal ritual. The exhibit celebrates living connections with the past in large black-and-white portraits, in stunning photographic landscapes, and in new art”.

Langley is less than an hour from Vancouver by car.

There is a review of the *We are Kwantlen* show at

<http://www.langleyadvance.com/community/411123485.html>



Mark Preston, *Untitled (Mask 4)*, yellow cedar
Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver

Vancouver's **Fazakas Gallery** is presenting *Great North*, an exhibition of work by artists **Mark Preston** and **Couzyn van Heuvelen**. Preston and van Heuvelen are both from the North; Preston is of Tlingit ancestry and van Heuvelen is Inuk. Both artists are rooted in their respective histories and traditions, and have developed their own vision. This show aims to examine their voices as artists contributing to the Canadian cultural landscape. The Gallery is at 688 East Hastings Street; the exhibition continues to February 25, 2017. The Fazakas Gallery has organized an interesting program of events for March on the theme of woman and art. There is breaking news about **Beau Dick** and his participation in Documents 14 this summer in Europe on <https://www.fazakasgallery.com>

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