

Biographies

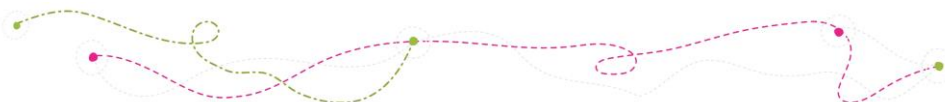
Born and raised in Northern Ontario, **Michael Belmore** has practiced professionally as an artist since graduating from OCAD University in 1994.

Belmore's work and processes speak about the environment – about land, water, and what it is to be Anishinaabe. He has exhibited extensively throughout Canada and abroad, including in Braga, Portugal; Zurich, Switzerland; and New York's Smithsonian in the USA. In 2015, Belmore was the Nigig Visiting Artist at OCAD University; he has also completed residencies at 4elements Living Arts on Manitoulin Island, Australia's RMIT University, and the Banff Centre for the Arts. He has been a regular recipient of federal and provincial arts council funding, and his work is represented in private and public collections such as the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, the Aboriginal Art Collection, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection and the Agnes Etherington Art Centre.

A member of Lac Seul First Nation (Anishinaabe), **Rebecca Belmore** is an internationally recognized multidisciplinary artist currently residing in Montréal. Rooted in the political and social realities of Indigenous communities, Belmore's works make evocative connections among bodies, land and language. Her notable exhibitions, performances and artworks include *Rebecca Belmore: Rising to the Occasion*, Vancouver Art Gallery (2008); *The Named and the Unnamed*, performance (2002); the sculpture *Trace* at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights; *Fringe*, *White Thread*, and *Untitled 1, 2, 3*, photographs; and *Ayum-ee-aawach Oomama-mowan: Speaking to Their Mother*, performances (1991,1992,1996, 2008). Belmore received the Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts in 2013, the Hnatyshyn Visual Arts Award in 2009, the Jack and Doris Shadbolt Foundation's VIVA Award in 2004, and an OCAD University Honorary Doctorate in 2005. Also in 2005, she was Canada's official representative at the Venice Biennale. In 2016, Rebecca was awarded the prestigious Gershon Iskowitz Prize by the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Québec Interdisciplinary artist **Raphaëlle de Groot** undertakes collaborative, process-based projects with individuals and communities that probe human experience. In 2013 she performed during the opening days of the Venice Biennale and the ensuing film *Raphaëlle de Groot à Venise*, produced by Galerie de l'UQAM, was shown across Canada as part of the exhibition *Material Girls* (Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina). A second significant book on de Groot's work (*The Summit Meetings*) was published by the Southern Alberta Art Gallery (SAAG), the Art Gallery of Windsor and the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec in 2016. She is a recipient of the Sobey Art Award (2012), the Prix Graff (2011), and the Pierre-Ayot Prize (2006). raphaelledegroot.net/eng/index.php

Maureen Gruben was born in Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories. She studied at Kelowna Okanagan College of Fine Arts, the En'owkin Centre in Penticton, and the University of Victoria. Gruben was recognized by Kelowna's En'owkin Centre with both the Eliza Jane Maracle Award (1998/99) and the Overall Achievement Award (1999/2000), and went on

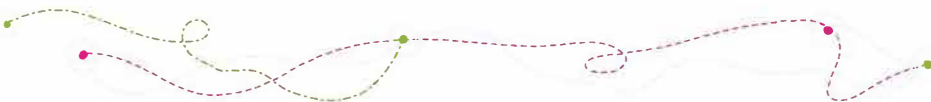


to receive the Elizabeth Valentine Prangnell Scholarship from the University of Victoria in 2011. Her most recent exhibitions are *Custom Made* at Kamloops Art Gallery (2015) and the group show *Blink* at the University of Victoria (2012).

Ursula Johnson is a performance and installation artist of Mi'kmaw First Nation ancestry from Eskasoni First Nation. She is currently based in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Johnson graduated from the NSCAD University in 2006 and has since participated in more than 30 group shows and five solo exhibitions. She has presented lectures and spoken in community forums on Indigenous self-determination, renegotiating conservation in Canadian institutions, environmental responsibility and sustainability, and the impact of economics on the Indigenous object. Johnson is a finalist for the 2016 Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Award. She was also a finalist for the 2015 Salt Spring National Art Prize and was long-listed for the Sobey Art Award in 2014, 2015 and 2016. www.ursulajohnson.ca

Cheryl L'Hirondelle is a mixed-blood multi- and interdisciplinary artist, singer/songwriter and curator. Her creative practice investigates the junction of a Cree worldview (nêhiyawin) in contemporary time and space. L'Hirondelle's performance work is featured in *Caught in the Act: An Anthology of Performance Art by Canadian Women* (2001). In 2004, L'Hirondelle and Hopkins were the first Aboriginal artists from Canada to be invited to present work at DAK'ART Lab as part of the sixth edition of the *Dakar Biennale for Contemporary African Art* in Dakar, Senegal. L'Hirondelle is a recipient of imagineNATIVE's New Media Award and is an Honoree in the Net.Art category from the Webby Awards for *nikamon ohci askiy* (songs because of the land). Since 2008, she has been working as co-composer on *Why the Caged Bird Sings*, a series of songs with incarcerated women, men and detained youth in federal prisons, provincial correctional institutions and civic detention centres.

Jeneen Frei Njootli is a Gwitchin artist and a founding member of the ReMatriate collective currently based on unceded Coast Salish Territory in Vancouver. She graduated with a BFA from Emily Carr University in 2012 after working as a curatorial assistant for Rita Wong's *downstream: reimagining water project*. Frei Njootli's practice concerns itself with Indigeneity in politics, community engagement and productive disruptions. An alumna of the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, she has worked as a performance artist, workshop facilitator and crime prevention youth coordinator, and has exhibited across Canada. Frei Njootli's works are part of the Yukon Permanent Art Collection and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's Permanent Art Collection.



Centered around the concept of maintenance and acts of cleaning, restoration and repair, **Douglas Scholes'** artistic practice is an archaeology of the present and the ordinary. His work has been exhibited in numerous Canadian institutions, and he has completed residencies at SPACE Studios in London, UK (Canada Council for the Arts), the Banff Centre (Banff, Canada), La Maison Laurentine (Aubepierre-sur-Aube, France), Rad'Art (San Romano, Italy), Imagination Station (Detroit, USA), 3e impérial (Granby, Canada) and AdMare (Magdalen Islands, Canada). Scholes represents one-fifth of the artists' collective Centre de recherche urbaine de Montréal (CRUM). He lives and works in Montréal. dougsscholes.ca

Camille Turner is a Jamaican-born, Toronto-based media/performance artist and educator. She is the founder of Outerregion, a company that produces intercultural exchanges and dialogue. Turner has presented interventions, installations and public engagements throughout Canada and internationally. Her current focus is bringing hidden and erased histories to life through place-based explorations. Examples include *HUSH HARBOUR* and *The Resistance of Peggy Pompadour*, sonic walks that animate historic Toronto's Black geographies; *TXTilecity*, an award-winning educational app that maps Toronto through its textile histories (created in partnership with Year Zero One and [murmur] and produced by Textile Museum of Canada); and *TimeWarp*, an Afrofuturist cellphone adventure in which participants use their smartphones as time machines in order to experience the future or past. Turner's current project engages historians, archivists and citizen researchers to help recover the stories of enslaved people.

Jin-me Yoon is a Korean-born, Vancouver-based artist. Since the early 1990s, Yoon has used photography to explore such issues as cultural identity, history and memory – how they are constructed as well as maintained. She has exhibited extensively across Canada and internationally, and is represented in numerous public collections. Yoon teaches at Simon Fraser University's School for the Contemporary Arts. In 2009, she was a finalist for the Art Gallery of Ontario's Grange Prize and in 2013 was awarded a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship.

