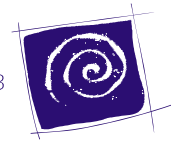




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Press Release

Aki odehi | scars of Mother-Earth Reconciliation from within the territory

Val-d'Or, May 10, 2017 – The Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre, in collaboration with the Centre d'exposition de Val-d'Or, presents the ***Aki odehi /scars of Mother-Earth*** project. This collective endeavour provides a space of meeting and reconciliation through a process of artistic creation involving the public's participation on various levels. Fuelled by conversations with Anicinabe Elders living in close relationship with the territory, these Land Art type projects originate from reflections about Mother-Earth, Aki odehi (places of the heart), the lasting scars of colonization, exploitation of the territory and cultural genocide. Through the process of bringing together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists, commissioner **Sonia Robertson** encourages each to dig deeper, to go one creative step further. These artistic actions will take place throughout the summer in the Abitibi and Témiscamingue area, with a concentration of events in Val-d'Or from **June 11 to 16, 2017**, and on Anicinabe territory in the municipalities of Gallichan, Duhamel-Ouest and Val-d'Or from **July 14 to 23, 2017**. Traces of these actions will be preserved and subsequently presented at the Centre d'exposition de Val-d'Or in 2018.

Karl Chevrier | sculptor, steps out of his comfort zone with *Run & Hide*. A healing path associated with residential schools through his process of cultural re-appropriation in the *Enchanted Forest* at the Obadjiwan Fort Témiscamingue National Historic Site. A video recording of the performative staging will document the process.

Kevin Papatie | filmmaker, proposes an outdoor installation on the theme of uprooting | deculturation through evocative images of the flooded territory

symbolised by tree stumps in the urban environment. Gatherings and participative actions will be organised around these focal points.

Jacques Baril | sculptor, proposes *Les Sept Feux* (The Seven Fires), his seven fires healing space for Pikogan's Elders and youth, and a reminder to the people of Gallichan of the Aboriginal presence on *Point Apitipik*. The population will be invited to invest the canvas of the seven columns placed in a circle and set ablaze in Lake Abitibi, facing the point.

Véronique Doucet | multidisciplinary eco-feminist artist, will call upon the population to collect forlorn socks to create a great tipi-skirt tapestry. **The population is invited to bring their lonely socks and stitch them together with the artist at the Centre d'exposition de Val-d'Or from June 11 to 16, 2017.** Véronique Doucet will wear the tipi-skirt during her three days and nights treetop performance to poetically transmute the suffering of abused and destitute women.

Virginia Pésémapéo Bordeleau | visual artist and author, will conjure up the spirit of the still missing Sindy Ruperthouse by using plants to write her name. Her action will take place in two stages, in June and July, in various natural and urban environments throughout the territory and the City of Val-d'Or, and with the public's participation.

In a context where relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are fragile, this project of artistic and poetic actions invites to reconciliation from within the territory. It's an opportunity for meeting, sharing and coming together with the other – the one we know so little about.

Take part in the actions and discover heartfelt projects by consulting the artistic actions program posted on social media at www.caavd.ca and www.expovd.ca and on the Facebook page of the Centre d'exposition de Val-d'Or www.facebook.com/centredexpositiondevaldor/

This project is supported by the Canada Council for the Arts in partnership with the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation and the Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada. The initiative is intended to promote artistic collaboration between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists, by investing in the power of the arts and the imagination to fuel dialogue, understanding and change.



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ON PHILANTHROPY AND ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN CANADA
SUR LA PHILANTHROPIE ET LES PEUPLES AUTOCHTONES AU CANADA

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