



THE *BRIDGE ARTISTS* EXHIBITION AND PROGRAMMING

Over several years of community engagement, the Gordie Howe International Bridge project team has heard the importance placed on acknowledging the region's multi-faceted past and present. As a result of this feedback, Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) has formed a partnership with the Art Gallery of Windsor (AGW) that celebrates significant historical and cultural aspects of the region. The first initiative to launch through the WDBA-AGW partnership is a unique exhibition that features three Indigenous artists who participated in the development of the bridge tower artwork.

EXHIBIT DETAILS

The *Bridge Artists* exhibition features a selection of drawings, paintings and textiles from the Anishinaabe artists Teresa Altman and Daisy White of Walpole Island First Nation and Naomi Peters of Caldwell First Nation who were commissioned to create the art murals displayed on the bridge tower forms at the Canadian project site in 2020. The artists' new works illustrate themes of nature, teaching, philosophy and cultural pride through paintings, drawings and textiles.

A 20-foot scale model of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project has been incorporated into the exhibit, alongside the artist's work. This model highlights the intricate design details of the four project components and illustrates how the bridge, Canadian and US Ports of Entry, and the Michigan Interchange work together to create a new border transportation system. The model is presented in a ratio of 1:750 and was created by Peter McCann Architectural Models Inc. in 2020.

Curated by Julie Rae Tucker, the *Bridge Artists* exhibit is open to the public at the Art Gallery of Windsor, 401 Riverside Drive West, Windsor, from August 12, 2021, until January 2022.

In addition to the physical exhibit, additional programming and workshops are being offered. These activities include tours to small groups and general audiences, targeted group presentations by the artists and bridge project team to secondary and post-secondary schools, and a workshop series for youth led by Naomi Peters and Daisy White.

Updated exhibit and programming information is available on www.agw.ca.

ARTISTS' BIOS

Teresa Altman has lived on Walpole Island for most of her life and is a descendant of the Ojibwe Pottawatomi Odawa people. Altman graduated from the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto and was a recipient of an honorary fellowship from that school. Altman is a well-known artist in Southwestern Ontario with many of her works on display in Sarnia and Windsor. She created a turtle sculpture for a parkette for the Rt. Hon. Herb Gray Parkway as well as designs along the Parkway's multi-use path. Teresa also created a turtle sculpture and an 11-foot tall textile piece that are on display at Point Pelee National Park and created seven banners with the seven teachings from Indigenous ancestors for the University of Windsor's Turtle Island Walk. Her teaching of First Nations culture continues with the installation of her art pieces that will be on display as part of the Gordie Howe International Bridge project.

Daisy White is an emerging artist from Bkejwanong. She will start the Early Child Education Program at Lambton College in the fall of 2021. Art has been a passion for White since she started drawing as a form of therapy and credits art with helping her become the person she is today. Her favourite art styles are realism and surrealism and she prefers to work with pencil crayons. Her work mostly encompasses portraits and she is interested in pursuing tattooing.

Naomi Peters is a Potawatomi/Chippewa (Ojibwe) member of the Caldwell First Nation. She recently graduated from Tyndale University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Arts (English Major/Psychology Minor). She has been drawing for over a decade.

In her indigenous animal series, she hopes to portray culturally important animals in a meaningful and beautiful way. She takes inspiration both from traditional indigenous stylings and nature. To name them, she always uses the Ojibway language, sometimes as a direct translation and some with their own unique titles. She wishes to depict these beautiful creatures as she sees them and hopes that people find enjoyment through her art.

FUTURE COLLABORATION

The project team continues to meet with the community to discuss the integration of additional cultural and historical recognition features into the project and associated community-based initiatives, where possible. The launch of this exhibition and partnership is the starting point for future collaboration.

For more information about the Gordie Howe International Bridge project visit www.GordieHoweInternationalBridge.com or call 1-844-322-1773. Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/GordieHoweBrg, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GordieHoweBridge and connect with us on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/wdba-apwd.