

IIF Symposium Toronto - Round Table Introductions

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00:17 Skawennati: Thank you so much for being here. We're very excited to have you all at our very... I would think you should say this.

[chuckle]

00:27 Jason Lewis: At the very first Annual Symposium on the Future Imaginary.

[applause]

00:35 JL: So you should have one of these beautiful little booklets here, designed by our RA Erika, that has the agenda as well as the deputation of the speakers, and also some information about the Initiative for Indigenous Futures, which is the sponsor of this event. Before we get into the meat of things I just want to acknowledge our hosts, ImagiNative, for providing us with this fantastic space, and working with us to get this event off the ground, and also the funders. So, the major funder for this is the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Fund... Or Council, the Trudeau Foundation, and Concordia University through the Research Chair and Computational Media, and the Indigenous Future Imaginary. So just want to extend thank yous to all of them for making this possible. So, we also want to just do a quick go-around, and do quick introductions, so we get a sense of who's in the room, and you all get a sense of who you all are. We purposely wanted to have this first one in a smaller environment, a more intimate environment, so we can have more of a conversation. So I'm Jason Lewis, I am a professor at Concordia University. I'm an interactive media artist and software developer, and I'm Cherokee-Hawaiian-Samoan, born and bred in Northern California.

02:01 Skawennati: And I'm Skawennati, I'm Mohawk of Kahnawake. I live in Montreal with that guy.

[laughter]

02:07 Skawennati: And I am the... I'm an artist, mainly, but I am also the coordinator of the partnership grant that made this meeting possible.

02:17 Steven Foster: I'm Steven Foster. I'm Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at UBC Okanagan Campus, also an indigenous media artist, of mixed Northwest Coast Heritage.

02:34 Sasha Sabrino: I'm Sasha Sabrino. Excuse my voice, I'm a little sick, I just completed a Master's in Art History at York University, so I'm in a weird postgrad place right now. I'm an artist, academic and a settler.

02:46 Mikhel Proulx: Hey everyone. I'm a settler, a French Metis. My name is Mikhel Proulx. I'm from the Kootenies in BC, and so I'm a PhD student in Art History, and I work for these two.

03:01 Ellen Gabriel: Skennenkowa. Katsisakwas iontiats. ["Peace/greetings. My name is Katsisakwas" in Mohawk] I'm Ellen Gabriel, from the Mohawk Community of of Kanehsatà:ke. I'm an artist, and representing the Partnership of Kontinónhstats that's the Mohawk Language Custodian Association.

03:18 Karen Buckley: Good afternoon. My name is Karen Buckley. I teach at... I'm faculty at Women & Gender Studies Institute at University of Toronto. I teach courses on indigenous decolonial aesthetics and art, and I'm really interested in indigenous futurities and hip-hop and other culture. And I'm really excited, I'm really excited about this.

03:45 Duane Linklater: My Name is Duane Linklater, I'm an artist.

03:51 Owisokon Lahache: Hello, my name is Owisokon Lahache, I'm an artist as well, from Kahnawake. I'm here representing the Kahnawake Education Center, and I teach at the high school there as well.

04:03 Elizabeth LaPensée: Aanii (Anishnabemowin greeting) My name is Elizabeth LaPensée. I am Anishnabe and Metis, and currently based in Minnesota, and an artist, designer, writer who works in games, comics, and interactive cards.

04:22 Archer Pechawis: Tansi [?Hello in Cree] Archer Pechalis ["I am called" in Cree]. I am a digital media and performance artist living here in Toronto. I'm really happy to be here thanks to the organizers.

04:32 Ellen: My name is Ellen, I'm a settler scholar doing PhD work at Queens University, and I'm excited to be here.

04:40 Ryan Rice: Ryan Rice, Chair of Indigenous Visual Culture at Ontario College of Art & Design University, and a curator.

04:47 André Dudemaine: André Dudemaine [his language?]. I am the Director of the Montreal First People's Festival.

04:57 Kasey Carzan: My name is Kasey Carzan, I'm an artist and musician from Yellowknife Northwest Territories. This is my first ImagiNative Festival, and coming here representing the NAT Mentorship Program in Yellowknife Northwest Territories. Thank you.

05:12 Cheryl L'hirondelle: [05:17] I'm Cheryl L'hirondelle. Nice to see a lot of friendly faces; interdisciplinary artist, musician, singer/songwriter, curator, and just recent Master's Graduate at OCAD university in Implicit Design.

05:31 S?: Woo-hoo.

05:33 CH: Should have done that a long time ago.

[laughter]

05:39 S?: I'm with her.

[laughter]

05:43 Joseph Naytowhow: Joseph Naytowhow.

05:45 Pete Collective: Pete Collective, from Sturgeon Lake First Nations, Saskatchewan.

05:51 Erin Freeland Ballentyne: Hello, my name is Erin Freeland Ballentyne, I'm from [redacted], Yellowknife, I'm a settler, and I come from a proud settler, Tlicho Dene [redacted] family, and I'm here on behalf of Dechinta Bush University, as a partner with Imagining Indigenous Futures, and we are so stoked up and ready to be part of this rad project.

[laughter]

06:12 Reaghan Tarbell: Reaghan Tarbell. I'm the Executive Director of Kanien'keháka Onkwawén:na Raotitíóhkwa Language and Cultural Center in Kahnawake, and I represent the Art Partnership with IIF... And this is Chase.

[laughter]

06:24 S?: Hey Chase.

06:25 S?: Hey Chase.

[laughter]

06:28 Rilla Khaled: Alright. Hi everyone. I'm Rilla Khaled, I'm from the Department of Design and Computation Arts at Concordia University. I'm a researcher and designer. My interests are games in culture, and also participatory design, and I am on the IIF project as a co-investigator.

06:45 Pippin Barr: Hi, I'm Pippin Barr. I'm on the same project as a co-investigator. I'm a Scholar in Residence at Concordia University and in experimental video-game-making.

06:58 Jennifer Petrela: I'm Jennifer Petrela. I'm from the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation in Montreal. I'm the settler mother of two children, so that's my day-job/night-job covered.

[laughter]

07:09 JP: I first heard about "What IIF" almost two years ago when Jason applied for Trudeau scholarship at our foundation. I met Skawennati and I found out what a team they were, and so it's very gratifying for me to be at this first symposium.

07:26 Erica: Hi, I'm Erica Perrault. I'm an undergraduate student at Concordia in the Computation Arts, and I've been working for Jason and Skawennati for a year and a half now.

07:36 Speaker 25: Hi, I'm [07:37] [REDACTED] [07:39] [REDACTED] from Australia. I'm a film producer, but I teach at the Australian Film and Television Radio School in [07:49] [REDACTED]. That's why I need to... Do you wanna go out there, to meet?

07:56 Tasha Beeds: Aaniin, Tansi, My name is Tasha Beeds. I'm Cree from Saskatchewan but also Caribbean. I am a PhD candidate in Indigenous studies at Trent University, and I also teach indigenous studies at Fleming College, and I just gave my first time ever pitch. I'm not sure if I'm [08:18] [REDACTED], so I find out tomorrow if that's a go or not, so I'm really excited to be a part of imagineNATIVE, on this end of it. I've always been an audience member, so I'm excited to hear what some of those ideas are.

08:32 Michelle LaVallee: Aaniin, Boozhoo [REDACTED] [08:34] [REDACTED] cast. My name's Michelle LaVallee. I'm one of the curators at MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina, and I'm here representing our partnership with IIF.

08:45 Nyla Innuksuk: Hey. I'm Nyla Innuksuk. Sorry I'm chewing gum.

[laughter]

08:51 Nyla Innuksuk: I'm a producer of film and virtual reality content, that where you put the stupid headset on your head. And also video games.

09:05 Alethea Arnaquq-Baril: Hi, I'm Alethea Arnaquq-Baril. I'm from Iqaluit Nunavut. I'm also chewing gum.

[laughter]

09:16 Alethea Arnaquq-Baril: I'm a film maker; documentary, animations, now drama; but I've always been a game lover, so I look forward to learning about it.

09:31 Jeremy: Jeremy [09:31] [REDACTED], Western Art & New Pictures Production Center in Yellowknife, also Director of [09:36] [REDACTED] out here.

09:40 Julie Nagam: Hi, I'm Julie Nagam, and I was at OCAD in the Indigenous Visual Culture Program, and I just recently mutated back to my home in Manitoba as the new joint position with the University of Winnipeg and Winnipeg Art Gallery, and it's the Chair of the History of Indigenous Arts of North America.

10:03 Jolene Rickard: [Greetings and self introduction in Tuscra] Jolene Rickard. I'm from the Tuscra Nation. I'm also the Director of the American Indian Program at Cornell, and I'm an Associate Professor in the History of Art and Visual Studies Program there as well.

10:26 Dominic Meissner: Hi I'm Dominic Meissner. I'm a creative director at the Behaviour in Montreal for a [10:34] [REDACTED].

10:38 Rick Krueger: Yeah, I'm Rick Krueger. I've been making the games for 21 years, and I'm excited about that.

10:44 Anna: My name is Anna [10:47] [REDACTED]. I am director of the International Sami Film Institute, which is in Norway, but representing the [10:57] [REDACTED]. So very happy to be here, exciting initiative, so thank you.

11:05 JL: This is Brian...

11:09 S?: Hi, Brian...

11:12 Brian: I'm happy to be here as well.

[laughter]

11:14 Brian: And I know some of you.

11:15 Skawennati: There's some people stuck in...

11:16 JL: Okay, and who else? Tim? Oh! You gotta introduce yourself.

[foreign language]

11:30 Speaker 37: My name's, 'He Clears the Path in [11:33] [REDACTED] Nation'.