



Onsite [at] OCAD U

2019

## Among all these tundras [Exhibition catalogue]

Igloliorte, Heather, Dickson, Amy and von Harringa, Charissa

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*Among All These Tundras* is produced and circulated by the Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University, Montreal.

This publication accompanies the exhibition *Among All These Tundras*, presented at Onsite Gallery, OCAD University, Toronto.

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**Onsite Gallery Advisory Board of Directors:** Patrick Burke, Ankesh Chandaria, Sara Diamond, Tim Gilbert (Chair) and Nancy Jain

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**Cover image:** Marja Helander, *Dolastallat (To have a campfire)*, 2016. Video still. Video, colour, sound, 5 min. 48 sec. Courtesy of the artist.















Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory, *Timiga Nunalu Sikulu (My Body, the Land and the ice)*, 2016. Video still. Video, colour, sound, 6 min. 28 sec. Courtesy of the artist.















Carola Grahn, *Look Who's Talking*, 2016. Video, 3 min. 40 sec. Installation view, Leonard & Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University, Montreal, 2018. Photo credit: Paul Litherland.









## Biographies

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### Curators

#### Heather Igloliorte

Dr. Heather Igloliorte is the University Research Chair in Indigenous Circumpolar Arts at Concordia University in Tiohtiá:ke/Montreal, where she also leads the Inuit Futures in Arts Leadership SSHRC Partnership Grant and Co-Directs the Initiative for Indigenous Futures Cluster in the Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology with Professor Jason Edward Lewis. Igloliorte currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Indigenous Circle for the Winnipeg Art Gallery, working on the development of the new national Inuit Art Centre; on the Board of Directors for North America's largest Indigenous art historical association, the Native North American Art Studies Association; is Vice-President of the Inuit Art Foundation; and sits on the Faculty Council of the Otsego Institute for Native American Art History at the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown, New York, among others.

#### Amy Dickson

Amy Dickson is an emerging curator and doctoral student in the Art History program at Concordia University. Her research focuses on the practice of Inuit artists within urban spaces and the role of art in the construction of place. Amy holds a B.A. and an M.A. in Art History, both from Carleton University. Her writing has been featured in *Inuit Art Quarterly and esse arts + opinions*.

#### Charissa von Harringa

Charissa von Harringa is a PhD Researcher in Art History at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology from New York University (2007) and an M.A. in Art History from Concordia University (2016). Von Harringa's academic area of focus lies at the intersection of several fields including Circumpolar, Indigenous, Memory and Performance Studies. Through her doctoral work she examines the media-based practices, archival dispositions, and networked agencies of pan-Inuit and Sámi artists. These are analyzed as they engage past and present Arctic discourse, elaborate new functions of tradition and modernity, and clarify the ever-evolving nexus of theory and practice in contemporary art towards sovereign ends. She has several published essays and reviews in *Inuit Art Quarterly and RACAR: revue d'art canadienne/Canadian Art Review*, among others.

## Biographies

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### Artists

#### asinnajaq

Inukjuak, Nunavik and Montreal, Quebec

asinnajaq is an Inuit artist whose film, *Three Thousand* (2017), blends archival footage with animation to imagine her home community of Inukjuak from the past into the future. *Three Thousand* won Best Experimental Film at the 2017 imagineNATIVE Media Arts Festival, and was nominated for Best Short Documentary at the 2018 Canadian Screen Awards. asinnajaq is a laureate of the REVEAL Indigenous Art Award in 2017 and the Toronto Film Critics Association's Technicolour Clyde Gilmour Award in 2018. She is on the curatorial team working on the inaugural exhibition of the Inuit Art Center opening in 2020.

#### Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory

Iqaluit, Nunavut

Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory is an artist who applies her study of uajaerneq (Greenlandic mask dancing) and understandings of Inuit philosophies into many genres, from performance art and theatre, to writing and curatorial work. Laakkuluk

is the co-winner of the 2018 Dora Award for Most Outstanding Play and recipient of the inaugural Kenojuak Ashevak Memorial Award from the Inuit Art Foundation. She is the first Artistic Director of Qaggiavuut, a non-profit society in Nunavut supporting Inuit artists and advocating for a Nunavut performing arts centre.

#### Kablusiak

Mohkinstsis (Calgary), Alberta

An Inuvialuk multi-disciplinary artist and curator, Kablusiak imbues a variety of media with their trademark ironic humour to address cultural displacement. The light-hearted nature of their practice extends gestures of empathy and solidarity, inviting a reconsideration of the perceptions of contemporary Indigeneity. They are represented by Jarvis Hall Gallery. Awards include the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Young Artist Prize (2017), the Primary Colours Emerging Artist Award (2018) and they are shortlisted for the 2019 Sobey Art Award. Along with three Inuit curators, Kablusiak will be creating the inaugural exhibition of the new Inuit Art Centre in 2020.

### **Carola Grahn**

Malmö, Sweden and Kittelfjäll, Sápmi

Carola Grahn is a Sámi visual artist who works primarily with materializations of text, installation strategies and sculptural media. Her affective text- and sound-based sculptural installations lend poetic dialogue to the contexts of place, labour, and identity that are attuned to the slippages of language and representation in art, while complicating cultural and gendered social constructions of the North. Carola's work has been shown at Southbank Centre, 2017 (London, UK), Carleton University Art Gallery, 2017 (Ottawa), Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, 2017 (Brandon), Office of Contemporary Art Norway, 2017, Havremagasinet, 2016 (Sweden), Galleri Jinsuni, Seoul, 2014 (South Korea), amongst other places.

### **Marja Helander**

Utsjok and Helsinki, Finland

Marja Helander is a video artist and photographer whose multi-media practice draws from her Sámi and Finnish ancestry. Helander explores themes related to femininity, identity and the tension between traditional Sámi ways of life and modern

Finnish society. She has presented works in exhibitions internationally, with many in northern Scandinavia, Canada, South Africa and Mali. Her video work, *Dolastallat*, won the Kent Monkman Award at imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, Toronto (2016). Her short, *Birds in the Earth*, won the Risto Jarva Prize and the Main Prize in the National Competition in the Tampere Film Festival, Finland (2018).

### **Sonya Kelliher-Combs**

Nome, Alaska

Sonya Kelliher-Combs is an Iñupiaq and Athabascan artist. Through her mixed media painting and sculpture, Kelliher-Combs offers a chronicle of the ongoing struggle for self-definition and identity in the Alaskan context. Her combination of shared iconography with intensely personal imagery demonstrates the generative power that each vocabulary has over the other. Kelliher-Combs' work has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including the national exhibition, *Changing Hands 2: Art without Reservation*, and the inaugural *Sakahàn* quinquennial of Indigenous art at the National Gallery of Canada in 2013.

**Joar Nango**

Alta and Tromsø, Norway

Joar Nango is a Sámi and Norwegian architect and visual artist. His varied practices often involve site-specific performances and structural installations, which explore the intersection of architecture and visual art, drawing from both his Sámi heritage and Western culture. Nango is a co-founder of the architecture collective FFB, who create temporary installations in urban settings. He has exhibited at Documenta 14, Athens and Kassel (2017); Western Front, Vancouver (2014); 43SNA, Medellin, Colombia (2013); and Norwegian Sculpture Biennale, Vigelandsmuseet, Oslo, Norway (2013), among others.

**Taqralik Partridge**

Kuujuaq, Nunavik

Taqralik Partridge is an Inuk artist, writer, curator, throatsinger, and spoken word poet. Partridge's writing focuses on both life in the north and on the experiences of Inuit living in the south. Partridge co-founded the *Tusarniq* festival held in Montreal and she has toured with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. Her short story, *Igloodik*, won first prize

in the Quebec Writing Competition (2010), and she was a featured artist onstage at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. In 2018, Partridge was named a finalist for the CBC Short Story Prize. Her work will be featured as an official selection at the Sydney Biennale in Sydney, Australia in 2020.

**Barry Pottle**

Rigolet, Nunatsiavut and Ottawa, Ontario

Barry Pottle is an Inuk artist who has always been interested in photography as a medium of artistic expression and as a way of exploring the world around him. Living in Ottawa, which has the largest urban population of Inuit outside the North, Barry has been able to stay connected to the greater Inuit community. Whether it is at a cultural gathering, family outings or the solitude of nature that photography allows, he captures the essence of Inuit life in Ottawa, as well as articulates and interrogates the emergent identity of an "urban Inuk." His work can be seen in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian Museum of History, and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

### Inuuteq Storch

Sisimiut, Greenland and Copenhagen, Denmark

Inuuteq Storch is a Kalaallit visual artist, photographer, musician and author. Storch's practice in photography, film, video, music and installation incorporates archival and contemporary images to comment on colonialism and the present day impacts and realities of modernization on Greenlandic communities. He is the author of *Porcelain Souls* (2018), a collection of family photos and letters from Greenland in the 1960s. Storch has participated in several festivals and major international exhibitions. His solo shows include *Old Films of the New Tale* (Sisimiut Culture House, Greenland, 2017) and *Run Away For Mother Earth* (Katuaq, Nuuk Culture House, 2012).

### Couzyn van Heuvelen

Iqaluit, Nunavut and Bowmanville, Ontario

Couzyn van Heuvelen is an Inuit artist born in Iqaluit but who has lived most of his life in Southern Ontario. His artistic practice blends modern fabrication techniques with Inuit tradition to create "hybrid" objects that explore both cultural tensions and synchronicities. Van Heuvelen's work has been included in several group exhibitions across Can-

ada. Recently, he created an aluminum qamutiik sculpture at the Southway Inn in Ottawa, Ontario for the *Lost Stories Project* commemorating the historical significance of the hotel being a landing point for Inuit traveling south for school, employment and medical care.

### Allison Akootchook Warden

Kaktovik and Anchorage, Alaska

Allison Akootchook Warden is an Iñupiaq interdisciplinary visual and performance artist who raps under the name AKU-MATU. Warden's practice weaves together Iñupiaq narratives and traditions from the past, present, and imagined futures. She is the creator of the one-woman show, "Calling All Polar Bears", which in 2011 was part of a National Performance Network residency. Her recent work, *Unipkaagusiksuguvik (the place of the future/ancient)*, at the Anchorage Museum, Alaska (2016) featured an extensive performative installation piece in which she was present in the gallery for 390 hours over two months. In 2018, Warden was awarded the Rasmuson Individual Artist Fellowship in the New Genre category.



**Thursday, November 28 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.****Inuit Art On-Line**

*Co-presented with Wapatah: Centre for Indigenous Visual Knowledge*

This public symposium will convene a panel of Inuit artists and scholars to discuss the role and importance of materiality in the creation and presentation of Inuit art. Visit Onsite Gallery's webpage for a list of confirmed speakers.

**Friday, December 13 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.****Indigenous Collections Edit-a-Thon**

*Co-presented with Wapatah: Centre for Indigenous Visual Knowledge*

Following a knowledge crowdsourcing model popularized by Wikipedia, this event will bring together communities of Indigenous cultural and collection specialists from across North America to begin shaping and populating content within the Virtual Platform for Indigenous Art.

**All events are free** and at Onsite Gallery,  
199 Richmond St. West.

For more information, please visit our website:  
**[ocadu.ca/onsite](http://ocadu.ca/onsite)**

**Upcoming Exhibitions****January 22 to April 26, 2020*****CodeX: playable & disruptive futurist eArt***

Curated by Tom Barker

This exhibition of leading-edge digital art, or eArt, investigates the future of human society through technology, innovation and design. It encourages audiences to reflect on the symbiotic relationship between technology and human society, and the resulting possibilities for our future through algorithms, identity and the nature of reality.

**May 13 to October 3, 2020*****Fable for Tomorrow: A Survey of Works by Wendy Coburn***

Curated by Andrea Fatona and Caroline Seck Langill

Wendy Coburn had significant impact on the Canadian art community as an artist, educator and activist who has exhibited internationally. *Fable for Tomorrow* presents the first survey of Wendy Coburn's artwork. The exhibition provides an opportunity to bring together four decades of sculpture, installation, photography and video that reveals her ability to sense the pulse of a deep present while asking us to pay attention to other futures. Coburn's work explores representations of gender, sexualities, everyday objects, material culture, and human/animal relations.

**October 28, 2020 to January 10, 2021**

***LIFE STUDIES: living media in the arts and sciences***

Curated by Jennifer Willet

This exhibition investigates the ethics and aesthetics of biodisplay—the display of living and preserved biological organisms in a cultural, public or institutional setting. It contributes to public discourse surrounding advanced biotechnologies within the larger arc of human history and highlight new and historical bioethical questions pertaining to the display of living media in public venues.

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**Onsite Gallery offers powerful, thought-provoking exhibitions of art, design and new media to stimulate conversations on critical issues facing Toronto and the world.**

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Wednesday - Friday  
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