

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: MIRAE LEE | COMMUNICATIONS@CRITICALDISTANCE.CA



left: Lacie Burning, *Untitled from Reflection Series*, 2017; centre: Dayna Danger, *Kandace*, 2017; right: Jade Nasogaluak Carpenter, *If you can't remember, then it must not be important. (still)*, 2016; all images courtesy the artists

## FORWARD FACING LACIE BURNING, JADE NASOGALUAK CARPENTER, DAYNA DANGER

Curated by CASS GARDINER and presented in partnership with  
ABORIGINAL CURATORIAL COLLECTIVE

On view APRIL 21–JUNE 3, 2018 | Opening Saturday, April 21st, 2–4 pm

In partnership with Aboriginal Curatorial Collective—Collectif des commissaires autochtones, Critical Distance is pleased to present **FORWARD FACING**, a Featured Exhibition of the 2018 Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival. Curated by Cass Gardiner (Toronto/Brooklyn), *Forward Facing* is an exhibition that examines intersectionality within Indigenous identity through the photographic, video, craft, and installation practices of Dayna Danger (Montreal), Lacie Burning (Vancouver), and Jade Nasogaluak Carpenter (Calgary).

Indigenous people from across Turtle Island express and assert their identity in conversation with their cultural roots in a multitude of ways, and always in tandem with ever-looming colonialism. Utilizing the device of the mask, the artists in *Forward Facing* provoke and question how the face—or the absence of it—creates a powerful commentary on contemporary Indigenous culture. Carpenter utilizes a full body disguise of a bed sheet; Burning, a mask made of mirror and light; Danger recalls BDSM masks of leather and beads. Yet despite the vast difference of materiality and practice, *Forward Facing* illustrates how the masks function as a signifier of solidarity and safety for these artists and their respective communities.

*Lacie Burning* is a Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) and Onondaga artist and curator who engages photography, video, installation, and sculpture. Having come from a culturally and politically grounded upbringing, their work focuses on politics of Indigeneity and identity from a Haudenosaunee perspective. Burning is currently studying at Emily Carr University of Art+Design in Vancouver, BC and serves as a board member for the Vancouver Indigenous Media Arts Festival.

*Jade Nasogaluak Carpenter* is an Inuvialuk artist and curator who uses art and humour as a coping mechanism to subtly address cultural displacement and to openly address mental illness. Carpenter currently holds the Indigenous Curatorial Research Practicum at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. In 2017, she won the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Young Artist Prize. She holds a diploma in Fine Art from Grant MacEwan University and a BFA from the Alberta College of Art and Design.

*Dayna Danger* is a 2Spirit, Metis-Anishinaabe (Saulteaux)-Polish visual artist who utilizes photography, sculpture, performance and video to question the line between empowerment and objectification. Her current use of BDSM and beading leather fetish masks explores the complicated dynamics of sexuality, gender, and power in a consensual and feminist manner. Danger holds an MFA in Photography from Concordia University and currently serves as a board member for the Aboriginal Curatorial Collective.

*Cass Gardiner* is an emerging Anishinaabe Algonquin curator and artist. She is co-founder of Matters Unsettled, a curatorial collective that uses the gallery to challenge preconceived notions of culture, identity, and belonging focusing on marginalized people. Their inaugural show, *Crafted Strangers*, took place at the Center for Craft, Creativity and Design in Asheville, NC, where Gardiner was the 2017 Emerging Curatorial Fellow. Her 2014 film *The Edible Indian* was nominated for Best Documentary Short at the American Indian Film Festival. Gardiner holds an MFA from Ryerson University and a BA from NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study.

Visit our website and news feeds for full bios and updates on exhibition-related events coming soon. Critical Distance and Aboriginal Curatorial Collective are grateful for funding support from the Ontario Arts Council and Toronto Arts Council for this exhibition and related programming.



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



FUNDED BY  
THE CITY OF  
TORONTO

CRITICAL DISTANCE CENTRE FOR CURATORS / WWW.CRITICALDISTANCE.CA / INFO@CRITICALDISTANCE.CA

180 SHAW STREET / SUITE 302 / TORONTO / ONTARIO / M6J 2W5 | HOURS: THURSDAY–SUNDAY 12–5 PM, AND BY APPOINTMENT FROM APRIL 21–JUNE 3, 2018