



TÂWÂSKWEYÂW A PATH OR GAP AMONG THE TREES

Jason Baerg

July 9 — August 21, 2021

**About Tawâskweyâw ᑕᑭᑎᑭᑦᑦ /
A Path or Gap Among the Trees**

The Mann Art Gallery is pleased to welcome Jason Baerg back home to host his mid-career retrospective. *Tawâskweyâw ᑕᑭᑎᑭᑦᑦ / A Path or Gap Among the Trees* charts 25 years of the artist's work comprising installation, immersive projection and painting. He writes, "I was born to be a Métis Artist. Raised in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, I was inspired by media and everything that was creative on-air!" While much of his recent work is conceived on the computer and produced by laser cutters, he thinks like a painter – it's where he started as an artist. His ongoing allegiance to painting reverberates powerfully when he states: "Painting is a sacred bundle that echoes through ancestral time, carry it responsibly and make a meaningful contribution to it." Baerg's work consistently evokes and challenges themes of community, ritual, Cree cosmology, Indigenous futurisms, and survivance – a term first employed by Anishinaabe cultural theorist Gerald Vizenor, to suggest the dynamic and creative endurance of Indigenous people, without the colonialist allusions to mere

subsistence and victimhood that survival may connote.

Jason Baerg is a Cree-Métis curator, educator, and visual artist. He graduated from Concordia University with a BFA (1999) and obtained an MFA from Rutgers University (2016) where he also taught. He has served as Adjunct Instructor at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and is currently Assistant Professor in Indigenous Practices in Contemporary Painting and Media Art at the Ontario College of Art and Design University. Baerg is the founder of the Métis Artist Collective, and has chaired both the Aboriginal Curatorial Collective and the National Indigenous Media Arts Coalition.

Tawâskweyâw ᑕᑭᑎᑭᑦᑦ / A Path or Gap Among the Trees was recently exhibited at the Woodland Cultural Centre (Brantford ON), Art Mûr (Montréal) and Canada House (London UK). Baerg's work has been presented around the world at venues including: Wanuskewin

Image: installation view of the *Tawâskweyâw ᑕᑭᑎᑭᑦᑦ / A Path or Gap Among the Trees* in the Main Gallery

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Image: installation view of the *Tawâskweyâw C-î-nq-î° / A Path or Gap Among the Trees* in the Main Gallery

Heritage Park and Mendel Art Gallery (Saskatoon), Galeria Omar Alonso (Puerto Vallarta, Mexico), the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, the Luminato Festival (Toronto), ABC No Rio (New York City), the New Digital Art Biennale (São Paulo) and Art Basel (Miami). *Relations* (2011-12) is in the Mann Art Gallery Permanent Collection. A catalogue for the exhibition with essays by Ryan Rice, Stephen Foster, Gerald McMaster and a forward by Marcus Miller was launched in August at the closing reception.