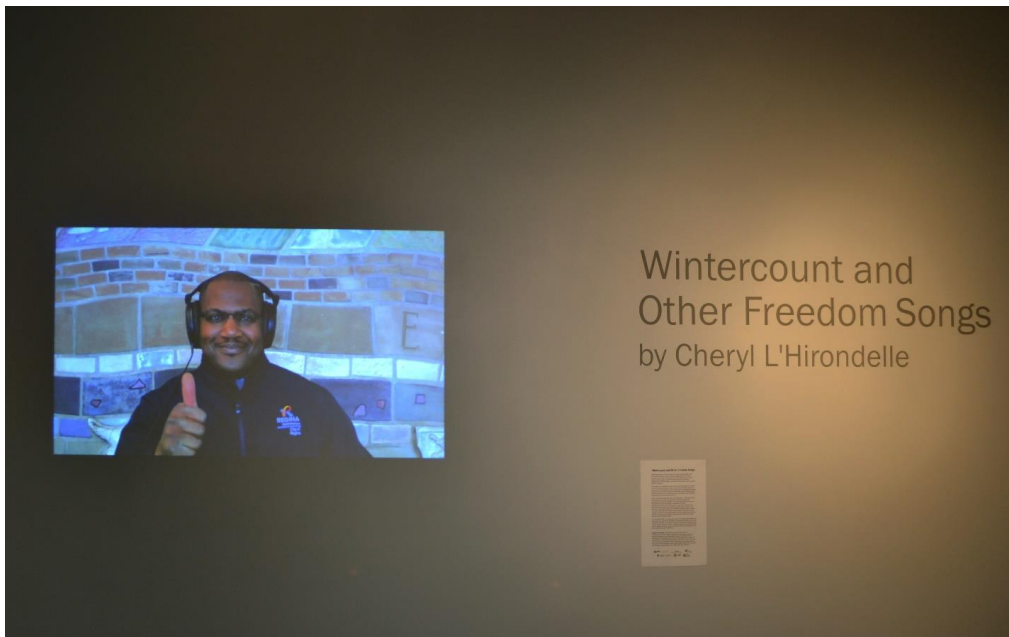


Wintercount and Other Freedom Songs **by Cheryl L'Hirondelle**

Curated by Judy McNaughton and presented in partnership with
Common Weal Community Arts

Project Space: September 12 - October 19, 2019



Cheryl L'Hirondelle, *Wintercount and Other Freedom Songs*, Project Space

These songs are from *Why the Caged Bird Sings*, a participatory and community-engaged, five-day singing, song writing and recording workshop that involves small groups of incarcerated women, men or detained youth along with their literacy educators and cultural programmers in federal prisons, provincial correctional centre and youth detention facilities. The song lyrics created by the participants are strung together to create a narrative, using consensus as a way to create equity so that everyone's voice is heard and validated. The resulting songs are uplifting and positive in theme and are meant to become a repeatable mantra that belongs to all the participants who co-wrote the song—extending out to the greater community, so that everyone can join in. The exhibition presents the *Wintercount: Can't Break Us* song and music video projected on the wall, and a listening station with nine songs and their lyrics. L'Hirondelle will present new works from the *Why the Caged Bird Sings* project in the Main Gallery in fall 2020 in the second year of the Common Weal partnership series.