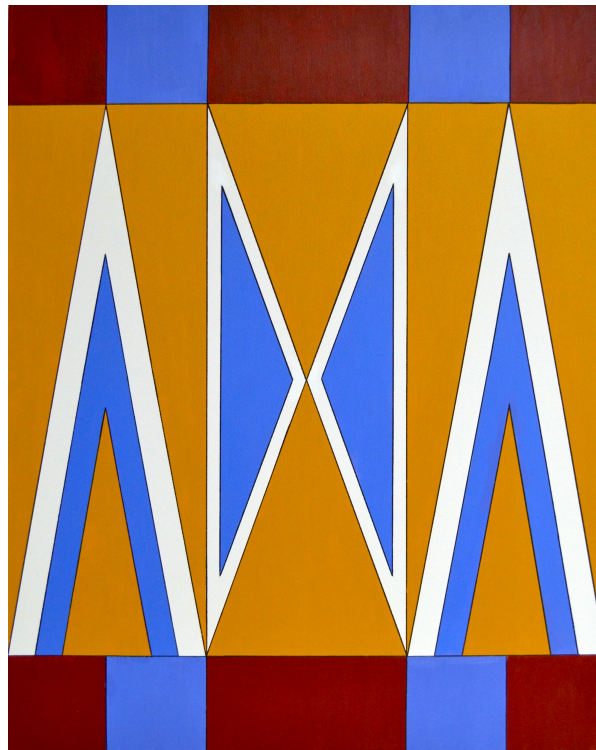


Fazakas Gallery Presents Re-counting Coup:

An exhibition that continues the stories of Blackfoot ways of knowing, homeland and community



Matthew Provoost Naatsikapamatoosin (Two Smudge), *My home takes care of me*, 2026, Acrylic paint, 24 x 30 inches

Re-counting Coup

Matthew Provoost Naatsikapamatoosin (Two Smudge)

May 14 – June 25, 2026

Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver

Fazakas Gallery is pleased to present *Re-counting Coup*, the first solo exhibition in British Columbia by Matthew Provoost Naatsikapamatoosin (Two Smudge), an artist from the Piikani and Kainai Nations (Southern Alberta), part of the Siksikaitstapi (Blackfoot Confederacy).

Two Smudge's practice explores how Siksikaitstapi knowledge systems persist and adapt within contemporary contexts. Working across painting, material interventions, installation, and hanging mobile sculpture, he engages histories of mark-making, land, and value to consider how cultural knowledge is carried forward.

The exhibition's title draws on the Blackfoot practice of counting coup, a Plains Indigenous tradition in which warriors demonstrated bravery through close physical proximity to an opponent—touching rather than killing. Emphasizing risk, precision, and restraint, the act held deep social and cultural significance.

In *Re-counting Coup*, Two Smudge reinterprets this gesture through his materials and process. Painting over maps and financial documents such as cheques—tools historically tied to colonial systems of land and economy—he disrupts their authority without fully erasing them. These works function as acts of “re-counting,” where layered marks assert presence and challenge imposed structures.

This approach connects to earlier visual traditions, including winter counts—pictorial records used by Plains Indigenous communities to mark significant events—and the later development of ledger art in the 19th century. While ledger art often emphasizes figuration and narrative, Two Smudge departs from these conventions. His compositions draw from the painted visual language of Niitoyis (lodges), where surface, structure, and meaning are intertwined. While the works may appear abstract, they are built through a Blackfoot visual vocabulary—circles, lines, and geometric forms that reference stars, celestial systems, and relationships to land.

Niitoyis remains central to the work. Beyond a formal reference, the lodge embodies teachings related to home, land, and community. Drawn from lived experience in Piikani Nation, these forms are rearticulated across each surface, creating spatial systems that resist the fixed boundaries of colonial cartography.

Re-counting Coup considers what it means to act with courage today. Here, bravery is expressed through continuation—through the sustained act of making, learning, and transmitting knowledge. The work affirms that Siksikaitsitapi ways of knowing are not static, but continuously evolving and carried forward.

Press Preview: May 14, 5pm

Public Opening Reception: May 14, 6–8 PM

Artist Talk: Saturday June 6, 12pm

Regular Opening hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm

For press inquiries, to schedule an interview or private visit, please contact:

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About Fazakas Gallery:

Located on the unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), in the heart of Vancouver's Gallery District, Fazakas Gallery promotes a diverse selection of contemporary art with a special emphasis on works by established and up-and-coming Indigenous artists. As both a commercial gallery and exhibition space, we offer a vibrant contemporary program that features an array of art aimed to enhance, enrich, and broaden visibility and understanding of Indigenous art. By recognizing and promoting the enduring impact of art, we are committed to establishing a vital dialogue among artists, collectors, and cultural institutions worldwide.

We offer works by established Indigenous artists such as Beau Dick, Rande Cook, and Don Yeomans. We also offer works by emerging and mid-career artists, such as Jason Baerg, Couzyn van Heuvelen, Audie Murray, and Corey Bulpitt. We provide a comprehensive approach to helping clients build their portfolio, while also reviewing existing collections to foster fresh new directions.