

MARCY FRIESEN

(B. 1972, Nipawin, Saskatchewan; Swampy Cree)

Marcy Friesen is of Swampy Cree and Welsh ancestry and currently resides on a mixed farm with her family near Carrot River, SK. She comes from a long line of traditional master beaders and talented creative family members. Friesen has always felt the need to create. She started her career with a small business making hand-crafted mitts, moccasins, and mukluks. After visiting the Remai Modern in Saskatoon, Friesen shifted her practice to experimenting with artisanal craftsmanship that fell outside the traditional utilitarian spectrum. Threading through beads, leather, and furs, Friesen draws the viewer into an intimate experience using her honed skills and intuitive sensibilities toward material, colour, and presentation. In Friesen's practice, the natural and synthetic come together in ways that are inclusive of the contemporary condition, transforming ways of understanding and expectations of cultural production. Her work has been included in the Contemporary Native Art Biennial (BACA) in Montreal, the Whyte Museum in Banff, the Remai Modern in Saskatoon, and the Mackenzie Art Gallery in Regina.

Selected Exhibitions

- 2025** Catch a Breeze, Billboard Project, AKA Artist Run Centre, Saskatoon, SK
 Three Piece Dinner, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
 Marcy Friesen: Shoot the Breeze, Mann Art Gallery, Prince Albert, SK
- 2024** Radical Stitch, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON
 Creation Stories: Roots and Revelations, Contemporary Native Art Biennial (BACA), 7th edition, Stewart Hall Gallery, Montréal, QC
 U<d'''/Tepakohp/7, OSAC Touring Exhibition, Humboldt and District Gallery, Humboldt, SK
 Daydreamer, Capture Photography Festival, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
 If You Prick Me, Do I Not Bleed?, Art Gallery of Regina, Regina, SK
- 2023** Art Toronto RBC Discover Section, Solo Booth, Fazakas Gallery, Toronto, ON
 NINA, Olivia Gallery, Wanuskewin Heritage Park Galleries, Saskatoon, SK
 The Book of Imaginary Beings, Access Gallery, Vancouver, BC
 Tending Otherworlds: New Acquisitions, Burnaby Art Gallery, Burnaby, BC
- 2022** Tangible/Intangible, K Art, Buffalo, NY
 U<d'''/Tepakohp/7, Arts on the Move, OSAC Touring Exhibition, Regina, SK
 Pê-mîciso, Art in the Trees, Gallery Stratford, Stratford, ON
 In The Middle of Everywhere, Remai Modern, Saskatoon, SK
 Coming Up Next, Alberta Craft Gallery, Calgary, AB
 Symbiosis: Art and the Community, John V. Hicks Gallery, Prince Albert, SK
 Pê-mîciso, Capture Photography Festival, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
 Radical Stitch, Mackenzie Art Gallery, Regina, SK
 Breathe (2nd Wave), Galt Museum & Archives, Lethbridge, AB
- 2021** Breathe: Creating Resilience Through Traditional Art, Royal Alberta Museum, Edmonton, AB
 S0E 0L0, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2020** Breathe, Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, Banff, AB
 Day of the Dead / Día de Muertos Mask Exhibition, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto, ON

Living Room, Fazakas Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Contemporary Native Art Biennial (BACA), 5th edition, Kahwatsiretátie:
Teionkwariwaienna Tekariwaiennawahkòntie/Honouring Kinship, Art Mûr, Montreal, QC

Residencies

2023 Olivia & Greg Artist-in-Residence, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, Saskatoon, SK

Programs and Mentorships

Aug 2023 - Aug 2024 — CARFAC Traveling Mentorship with Rob Frose

June 2021 - June 2022 — Artist in Community Project, City of Prince Albert with Lynda Monahan

Feb 2020 - May 2020 — Micro-Grant for Depression Moccasin project

Sept 2019 - July 2020 — CARFAC Mentorship Program with Ruth Cuthand

Awards

2024 Best in Show / Mayor's Choice, Mann Art Gallery, 48th Annual Winter Festival Art Show and Sale

2023 SK Arts, We Celebrate You Award. Nominated by Ruth Cuthand.

Grants

2023 SK Arts, Share and Connect

SK Arts, Indigenous Peoples Art and Artist - Major

2022 SK Arts, Micro Grant

SK Arts, Artist in Communities - Development

2021 SK Arts, Micro Grant

2020 SK Arts, Micro Grant