

MARCY FRIESEN

(B. 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

- 2024** Creation Stories, Contemporary Native Art Biennial (BACA), 7th edition, Art Mûr, Montréal, QC
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
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, Kahwatsiretâtie:
Teionkwariwaienna Tekariwaiennawahkòntie/Honouring Kinship, Art Mûr, Montreal, QC

Artist-In-Residence

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

Programs

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

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