

I determined to devote whatever talents and proficiency I possessed to the painting of a series of pictures illustrative of the European Male. The subject is one in which I have felt a deep interest since childhood, having become intimately familiar in my native land to the hundreds of trappers, voyageurs, priests, and farmers who represent noblest races of Europe.

~ Miss Chief Eagle Testickle

As part of the ***Shapeshifters, Time Travellers, and Storytellers*** exhibit, Kent Monkman, in the guise of his infamous alter-ego Miss Chief Eagle Testickle, will perform *Séance*, a new site-specific performance specially commissioned by imagineNATIVE and the Institute for Contemporary Culture (ICC). In this dramatic performance art piece, Miss Chief will bring to life 19th century colonial artists, including Paul Kane and George Catlin, whose romantic paintings immortalized Native North Americans of the period and in part helped create the myth of the “dying noble warrior”. The work of both artists has served as an abundant source of inspiration for Monkman’s own painting, film, performance and installation art work, which inserts the perspectives and narratives of First Peoples into 19th century historical settings. *Séance* complements Monkman’s painting, *Duel After the Masquerade* (2007), also commissioned for the exhibit and shown in the ICC Gallery with Paul Kane’s *Medicine Mask Dance* (1848-56). A selection of Miss Chief’s elaborate regalia is also included in the exhibit.

Kent Monkman is an artist of Cree ancestry who works with a variety of mediums, including painting, film, video, and performance. Recent solo shows have been mounted in Ontario at the Hamilton Art Gallery and the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art. Monkman has participated in recent group shows at the Musée d’Art Contemporain de Montréal, the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona, and at Compton Verney, in Warwickshire, England. Monkman has created site-specific performances at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, and at Compton Verney. His performance-based films have been screened at various national and international festivals, including both the Berlin and Toronto international film festivals. His work is represented in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada, Museum London, the Musée d’Art Contemporain de Montréal, the Woodland Cultural Centre, the Indian Art Centre, The Mackenzie Art Gallery, and the Canada Council Art Bank.

The imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival is Canada’s largest annual festival featuring film, video, radio and new media art by international Indigenous artists. This year’s festival takes place in downtown Toronto from October 17-21. For more information visit www.imagineNATIVE.org.

Séance is made possible through the generous support of Partners in Art (www.partnersinart.ca).