

Cultural Appropriation

What's That?

FEB 22–25, 2019

Designed and facilitated by Chris Creighton-Kelly and France Trépanier.

OPENING A MESSY DEBATE (SESSION ONE)

A performative presentation teases out the complicated conversations that try to understand issues surrounding cultural appropriation. Participants - in both small group exchange and plenary discussions - open up the contradictory complexity of these confluences.

WHAT IS CULTURAL APPROPRIATION? (SESSION TWO)

Co-presented with The Artists' Legal Outreach. Presenters Meena Natarajan, Valerie Sing Turner, T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss, and Greg Younging address what appears to be a simple question - "What is cultural appropriation?", by responding to and challenging each other's ideas, with a view to expanding our collective knowledge as they 'walk around the tree' together.

ARTISTIC CREATION: STORIES FROM THE FIELD (SESSION THREE)

Presenters: Keith Barker, Denise Bolduc, and Yves Sioui Durand. A plenary presentation establishes a framework that goes beyond the simplistic polarization - "ownership vs. censorship" - by which cultural appropriation is normally interpreted both by media coverage and within artistic communities. This is followed by Indigenous artists Keith Barker, Denise Bolduc, and Yves Sioui Durand who speak about their real-life experiences. Small group discussions help to clarify the challenges of creative collaboration.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS (SESSION FOUR)

A check-in session over catered brunch creates a safe(r) space for unanswered questions that have emerged so far in the Industry Series. This encourages participants to give feedback, sharing their own enquiries while formulating & then addressing their own burning questions.

LOOKING AT WISE PRACTICES: WHAT IS BEING DONE?

(SESSION FIVE)

Presenters Barbara Diabo, Tarah Hogue, Lindsay Lachance, Émilie Monnet speak from their own perspectives on 'wise practices'. Shifting the frame from being 'victims' of cultural appropriation to being agents of cultural self-determination, they explore what works well; what works sometimes; and what to avoid. Participants explore their own wise practices in preparation for the afternoon session.

DEVELOPING DECOLONIZING PROTOCOLS

(SESSION SIX)

A workshop session develops decolonizing methodologies, guidelines and protocols designed to respectfully avoid the pitfalls of cultural appropriation. These approaches are practical, based on the day-to-day experiences of working in the arts and are useful for Indigenous and non-Indigenous arts workers alike.