

For Immediate Release

EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY SUSPENDS CLASSES TO HONOUR ABORIGINAL PEOPLES FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

A Celebration of Resilience – Friday, September 20, 2013

Vancouver, CAN, September 12, 2013 | Emily Carr University is proud to participate in events and exhibits that acknowledge the survival and resilience of Aboriginal people as part of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's](#) National Conference, September 18 – 21, in Vancouver BC.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established to gather testimony and records surrounding the Indian Residential School system that operated in Canada from 1875-1996. Generations of Aboriginal children were forcibly removed from their homes and communities and placed in schools, where they were forbidden to speak their language and practice their own culture. Many suffered significant abuse, and many died.

This event provides a historic opportunity to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the history and legacy of Indian Residential Schools and their lasting effects on Aboriginal communities, and to work collectively in our communities towards a better future based on a common understanding of this shared history.

In recognition of the significance of the national conference, Emily Carr will suspend classes on Friday, September 20, to allow the University community to participate. This will be a day of celebration, contemplation and community-building and we encourage everyone to attend events on campus, and around Vancouver, to better understand the Aboriginal journey of healing and the power of Aboriginal art, culture and education.

"The journey to reconciliation has been complex," says Brenda Crabtree, Aboriginal Program Manager, Emily Carr University. "The Truth and Reconciliation National Gathering events next week will serve an important role in educating the public about the history of Residential Schools as well as creating opportunities for people to share and heal."

Schedule of Events:

Thursday, September 12, 2013

6-9pm – Concourse Gallery

[NET-ETH: Going out of the Darkness](#) – Opening Reception

This group exhibition features over twenty contemporary and traditional First Nations artists, among them are Indian Residential School survivors and their descendants whose work is a powerful testimony to their personal healing process. The exhibition will run through September 13 – 29, 2013, 10am-6pm daily.

Friday, September 20, 2013

8:30am – Concourse Gallery, North Building

Bannock and Tea/Welcome

Drumming/Singing featuring 3rd year student Lou-Ann Neel, Kwakwaka'wakw First Nation, and visiting Inuit artist Mathew Nuqingaq.

10:00am – Concourse Gallery, North Building

Drop-in cedar station, includes hands-on and cedar harvesting video

Sealskin glove sewing and qiviut spinning demonstrations with Inuit artist Lena Wolki

11:00am Lecture Theatre | Room 301, South Building

*Interdisciplinary artist and alumnus Sonny Assu, Ligwilda'xw of the We Wai Kai First Nation

2:00pm Lecture Theatre | Room 301, South Building

*Master Tahltan-Tlingit artist Dempsey Bob, LittD

*Both talks will be [live-streamed](#).

Emily Carr's Aboriginal Gathering Place will host programming throughout the day including a screening of the film [We Were Children](#), and demonstrations/presentations by Mathew Nuqingaq, Inuit, Luke Parnell, Haida Nisga'a (MAA '12), and Laura Wee Lay Laq, Coast Salish.

Additional resources for the Truth and Reconciliation Gathering can be found [here](#).

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About Emily Carr University of Art + Design

Emily Carr University of Art + Design, established in 1925, is a world leader in education and research. Encouraging experimentation at the intersection of art, design, media and technology, our learning community merges research, critical theory and studio practice in an interdisciplinary environment. Alumni and faculty are internationally recognized as award-winning creators and thought leaders who have enormous impact on both the cultural sector and economy. We engage students, industry, and society to continuously explore and think differently about creativity and how it shapes our world. Emily Carr is building a state-of-the art campus for 21st century learning at Great Northern Way. The University will be at the centre of a new social, cultural, educational, and economic engine for British Columbia. Find out more at ecuaad.ca.

About the Aboriginal Gathering Place

Emily Carr University's [Aboriginal Gathering Place](#) is a centre that reflects the cultural characteristics of our Aboriginal students, community and traditions. This space is dedicated to student projects, workshops, ceremonies and celebrations of the University's Aboriginal community. The Gathering Place allows our Aboriginal students to develop and strengthen their identities in a supportive, safe environment. The design of the space is relevant to and congruent with Aboriginal philosophies and values.



For additional information, contact:

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