

Opening of Kent Monkman art show attracts 1,000 people

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Hundreds inside; hundreds more waiting in line for the show.

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TORONTO

The University of Toronto Art Museum was packed with hundreds of people for the opening of Kent Monkman's exhibition, "Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience" on the evening of Jan. 26. A security guard stood at the entrance to handle the crowds as hundreds more waited in line outside the gallery for their opportunity to view the much-talked about show

created by Monkman to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary.

“Shame and Prejudice: A Story of Resilience” narrates a story of Canada through the eyes of Monkman’s alter ego, Miss Chief Eagle Testickle, from present-day to a 150 years before Confederation. It’s not the usual sanitized history of Canada, but a raw, compelling and honest one.

As Monkman explains, “The last 150 years – the period of Modernity – represents the most devastating period for First Peoples, including the signing of the numbered treaties, the reserve system, genocidal policies of the residential schools, mass incarceration and urban squalor.”

This is Monkman’s first major solo-exhibition at the U of T Art Museum and includes his own paintings, drawings and sculptural works, as well as historical artefacts and artworks borrowed from museums and private collections from across the country.

The U of T Art Museum estimates that 1,000 people viewed the exhibition on opening night.

The exhibition is in Toronto until March 4, 2017 and following that will be on tour. The exhibition is produced by the Art Museum at the University of Toronto in partnership with the Confederation Art Gallery, Charlottetown.

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© 2016 Leo Arcand, maquette for "Nature's Harmony"
Photo: The Places

Alexander Nation sculptor chosen for Canada 150 Confederation project

"We will never know how to embrace the beauty of
one's knowledge, love, culture, prayer, and way of life
until we share it with truth, love, and understanding.
Bringing it to life in stone forever is my gift I share."

~ Leo Arcand

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