

News Release
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MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY NATIVE ARTS

BADLAND: Rebecca Belmore, Lori Blondeau, Bonnie Devine, and Erica Lord **New Installations and Video Travel to Museum of Contemporary Native Arts**



Native American Land Reclamation Project
Erica Lord

Installation using red stripes from US flag, earth from various villages, reservations, and tribal lands, sinew, and mirrors.

Santa Fe, NM – The Museum of Contemporary Native Arts exhibit *BADLAND: Rebecca Belmore, Lori Blondeau, Bonnie Devine, and Erica Lord* features Native women artists who are known for their experimental video, installation and performance work. The exhibit will explore the ever-changing nature of land, bringing attention to issues of sovereignty, destruction and culture as those relate back to the land and its inhabitants. *BADLAND* will open with a special preview for Museum members June 26, 2009 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. (with artists present!). A public opening reception occurs that same evening from 5 - 7 p.m. The show remains on display until January 31, 2010.

Belmore was Canada's official representative at the 2005 Venice Biennale and has exhibited widely around the U.S. and Canada, including New Mexico's SITE Santa Fe. In *BADLAND*, she will install a video called "March 5, 1819." The piece is based on the story of Demasduit. In the early morning of March 5, 1819, a group of European merchants surprised a sleeping band of Beothuk Indians on Red Indian Lake in Central Newfoundland. When the Indians tried to flee across the frozen lake, a woman named Demasduit, carrying her 2-day old infant, fell behind the others. Her husband Nonasabasut, who was also the chief, ran back twice, first to carry their baby to safety, and finally to rescue his wife. Although unarmed, he was shot and killed at point blank range. Demasduit was taken into captivity, and eventually to St. John's, where she lived for several months as a guest of Governor Charles Hamilton.

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Devine is the recipient of several awards including the Robert Markle Scholarship, the Norman Jewison Prize for First Nations Visual Art, the S.L. Simpson Portfolio Award and the 2002 Arts Toronto Protégé Award in Visual Art. She will be installing a video and writing for *BADLAND*. Titled “U308 Yellow Cake,” the piece deals with yellow cake uranium mining as it’s occurred from the Canadian north to the hillsides of Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Blondeau is a performance artist who has been internationally exhibited with pieces like “We Want to be Just Like Barbie-That Bitch has Everything.” In *BADLAND*, she will exhibit a series of photographed performance tableaux that she completed with Adrian Stimson, “Putting the Wild Back into the West, circa 2007.” Blondeau will be creating brand new prints from the negatives of the original series.

Lord is known for work that challenges viewers, like her recent “Artifact Piece, Revisited” performance at the National Museum of the American Indian in which she replicated James Luna’s 1987 “Artifact Piece” using her body as the subject matter. A College of Contemporary Arts alumna, her contribution to *BADLAND* will include an installation of prayer bundles made from the red cloth of the United State’s Star Spangled Banner.

For more information, please call Joseph Sanchez, 505.983.8900. To request images of artwork, please email sgolar@iaia.edu or call 505.424.2351. For more information about the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, please visit www.iaiamuseum.org

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About the Museum

Located in downtown Santa Fe, the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts is dedicated to advancing the discourse, knowledge and understanding of contemporary Native arts. Founded in 1971, the Museum’s exhibitions, publications and educational programs challenge pre-conceived notions of contemporary art. The Museum of Contemporary Native Arts is home to the largest collection of contemporary Native art in the world. A premier shopping destination, the Museum’s store offers the finest selection of contemporary Native arts and gifts from both emerging and established artists.

Museum hours are Monday – Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday: noon to 5 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays from November through May as well as major holidays. Adult admission is \$5; senior citizens (62 and over), students with valid IDs and residents of NM: \$2.50. Admission is free for Native people, Museum members, youth under the age of 16, and NM residents visiting on Sunday.

IAIA’s Mission:

To empower creativity and leadership in Native arts and cultures through higher education, lifelong learning and outreach