SUBJECT	Academic Presentation: Site/ation: Land as Creative Knowing
SUBMITTED TO	Board of Governors
MEETING DATE	June 24, 2021
SESSION CLASSIFICATION	Recommended session criteria from Board Meetings Policy: OPEN
REQUEST	For information only - No action requested
LEAD EXECUTIVE	Lesley Cormack, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal, UBC Okanagan
SUPPORTED BY	Ananya Mukherjee Reed, Provost and Vice-President Academic, UBC Okanagan Tania Willard, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tania Willard, Assistant Professor of Visual Arts (Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies) will join for a research presentation. Tania is of Secwépemc and settler heritage, her research focuses on Secwepemc aesthetics/language/land and interrelated Indigenous art practices. Willard's ongoing collaborative project BUSH gallery, is a conceptual land-based gallery grounded in Indigenous knowledges and relational art practices.

Research Presentation: Site/ation: Land as Creative Knowing

> "Everything within a settler colonial society strains to destroy or assimilate the Native in order to disappear them from the land."

Site/ation is a creation as research practice that works within experimental and socially engaged practices to create understanding of existing disparities and work to imagine other possible modalities of exhibition both within Indigenous centered spaces and also connected, in our own terms, to a global art conversation. The protocols of visiting as an Indigenous methodology (as in Métis artist Dylan Miner's work, but also a widespread Indigenous practice) are enacted through the artist residencies and outdoor studio experimentation. Modalities used in Site/ation are framed around theories of decolonial aesthetics (Mignolo), Indigenous resurgence (Simpson, Coulthard), and eco-aesthetics (Stewart, Araeen) within a context of the Anthropocene (Morton, Demos, Todd).

PRESENTATIONS

1. Photo series Tania Willard

Academic Presentation

Tania Willard, Assistant Professor,
Faculty Of Creative And Critical Studies

the
FUTURE
is
INDIGENOUS
The Land
is
STRONG
AM
the
REVOLUTION
has
COME
AUDAIN GALLERY
SFU
SFU

The sky
chainsaw
the sun on us all
an axe
sweat
heartbeat
somewhere home
family
breath
when we were trees
The ground

FIGHT
THRASH
WATER
CLAIM

I DON'T WANT TO
SELL MY RIGHTS AND
I DON'T WANT TO
LOSE MY LAND
INCREASED
SETTLEMENT

GIVE
IT ALL
AWAY
AND
START
AGAIN

List of Works Tania Willard

1. *Affirmations for Wildflowers; an Ethnobotony of Desire (series),* 2020
   laser etched mirrored acrylic, wood, satin ribbon, single-bulb LED flashlight

2. *Surrounded/Surrounding, 2018*
   with Woodpile Score
   vinyl, wood, leather, steel

3. *The Combo, 2012*
   Birchbark, cedar root, plastic tray, rabbit skin

4. *Entwined,* cedar bark, wool, natural dyes, abalone shell buttons, jute, DIMS variable, 2009

5. *Liberation of the Chinook wind,* nylon windsocks, anonometer, python code, DIMs variable, 2018

6. *Gut Instincts,* outdoor vinyl installation, DIMs variable, 2018

7. *Xyemstwecw, Respect for One Another,* 3M reflective fabric, satin and silk ribbon, flashlights, and laser etching, 2018 Collection of Vancouver Art Gallery

8. *Sovereign Sunshine (*series), emulsion and various objects on paper, printed at BUSH Gallery, 2016-2017

9. *Basket Rescue Operation,* birch bark, cedar root, copper leafing, 2016

10. *#Tmicw,* digital image, documentation of site specific install at BUSH Gallery, 2016