

EQUINOX GALLERY
3642 Commercial Street
Vancouver, BC V5N 4G2

604.736.2405 t
info@equinoxgallery.com e
www.equinoxgallery.com w

SONNY ASSU

Ligwkilda'xw of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nations
Lives in Campbell River, BC

EDUCATION

2016: MFA, Concordia, Montréal, QC
2002: BFA (Printmaking, Digital Arts, First Nations Studies), Emily Carr University, Vancouver, BC
1999: Kwantlen Polytechnic University College, Fine Arts Diploma Program, Surrey, BC

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025:
Comic Sans, Fairmont Pacific Rim, Presented by Equinox Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2024:
Assertion of Sovereignty, Comox Valley Art Gallery, BC
Keeping the Song Alive, Campbell River Museum, Campbell River, BC

2023:
Sonny Assu: Legacy Format, Equinox Gallery, BC

2022:
Keeping the Song Alive, Bill Reid Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2021:
Special Appearance By..., Zalucky Contemporary, Toronto, ON
Omnibus, Equinox Gallery, BC

2020:
Imaginary Lines, Art Mur, Montréal, QC

2019:
Tłakwa, Equinox Gallery, Vancouver, BC
(UN) Named Maker, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich, UK
Sonny Assu: A Radical Mixing, Canada House Gallery, London, England, UK

2018:
Sonny Assu: Etudes for the Settler, Jacob Lawrence Gallery, Seattle, WA, USA
A Selective History, The Canadian Guild of Crafts, Montreal, QC
Territorial Acknowledgements, Campbell River Art Gallery, Campbell River, BC
The Paradise Syndrome, Tidemark Theatre, Campbell River, BC
Works on Paper, Equinox Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2017:
We Come to Witness: Sonny Assu In Dialogue with Emily Carr, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Sonny Assu: Interventions on the Imaginary, Art Mur, Montréal, QC

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2016:

We Come to Witness: Sonny Assu in Dialogue with Emily Carr, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Sonny Assu: Home Coming, Campbell River Art Gallery, Campbell River, BC
Sonny Assu: The Paradise Syndrome, Malaspina Printmakers, Vancouver, BC
1UP, Surrey Art Gallery's Urban Screen, Surrey, BC

2015:

Sonny Assu: Day School, Equinox Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Continuum, Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Thunder Bay, ON
Sightings 13: The Value of What Goes on Top, Leonard and Bina Ellen Art Gallery, Concordia University, Montreal, QC
The Value of What Goes Within, SIGHTINGS 13, Galerie Leonard & Bina Ellen, Montreal, QC

2014:

Echoes, Two Rivers Gallery, Prince George, BC
Sonny Assu, Urban Shaman Gallery, Winnipeg, MB
Interventions on the Imaginary, FOFA Gallery (York Vitrines), Montreal, QC

2013:

Sonny Assu: Possession, Oakville Galleries, Oakville, ON
The Happiest Future, Urban Shaman Gallery, Winnipeg, MB
#neveridle, Art Mur, Montreal, QC
There is Hope, If We Rise, Gallery Vertigo, Vernon, BC

2012:

The Happiest Future, Gallery Fukai, Vancouver, BC
Offcuts, The Langham Cultural Centre, Kelso, BC

2011:

Silenced, Equinox Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Longing, West Vancouver Museum, West Vancouver, BC
Coke Salish, Labrynth Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Longing: An Anthropological Intervention, Museum of Anthropology, Vancouver, BC

2010:

Sonny Assu, Equinox Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2009:

iDrums, Equinox Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2007:

iPotlatch, Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, Brandon, MB

2006:

Sonny Assu: As defined by the Indian Act, Belkin Satellite Gallery, Vancouver, BC

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025:

Tierras Reimaginadas: Migration, Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, AZ
Multitides, Evergreen Cultural Centre, Coquitlam, BC

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2022:

Keep the Song Alive, Bill Reid Gallery, Vancouver, BC
50 Years, 50 Stories, Equinox Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2021:

Uncommon Language, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Wayfinding: Contemporary Artists, Critical Dialogues, and the Sidney R. Knafel Map Collection, Andover, MA, USA

2020:

Where We Have Been, Surrey Art Gallery, Surrey, BC
Indigenous Futurisms: Transcending Past/Present/Future, Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM
Fabulous Images, When Fiction Takes Root – Foreman Art Gallery of Bishop's University, Sherbrooke, QC
There is Hope If We Rise: Protest Posters from AIM to DAPL, David W. May American Indian Gallery, San Diego, California, USA
Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico

2019:

The Drive, Art Gallery of Guelph, Guelph, ON (Travelling Thunder Bay Art Gallery, Confederation Centre Art Gallery, Museum London)
First Nations Art of British Columbia, Maui Arts and Cultural Center, Kahului, Hawaii (Travelling East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii)
Indigenous Futurisms: Explorations in Art and Play, C.N. Gorman Museum at UC Davis, Davis, California, USA
Sonny Assu and Emily Carr: Conversing Cultures, Audain Art Museum, Whistler, BC
Person/ne, Griffin Art Projects, North Vancouver, BC
Displacement, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2018:

Borrowing the Earth (Russia touring Orenburg Fine Arts Museum, Orenburg, Nesterov Bashkir State Museum in Ufa, The Udmurt Republican Museum of Fine Arts, Izhevsk, Museum of Fine Arts, Novy Urengoy Museum Resource Center of Noyabrsk, Noyabrsk, South Urals History Museum in Chelyabinsk Tyumen Fine Arts Museum, Tyumen, Yekaterinburg Fine Arts Museum, Yekaterinburg)
The Metamorphosis, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Live Long and Prosper: Sci-Fi Images in Contemporary Indigenous Art, New Mexico State University Museum, NM
Here Be Dragons, Carlton University Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON
POP, Audain Art Museum, Whistler, BC
Triennale Banlieue! Là où prepare le futur, Maison Des Arts De Laval, Laval, QC
Conflicting Heroes, Art Mur, Berlin, Germany
Juxtaposition, Galerie BLANC, Montréal, QC
Sonny Assu, Renee Van Halm, Etienne Zack: Works on Paper, Equinox Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Record Shop, MKG127, Toronto, ON

2017:

An Absolute Movement, Or Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Group Show, DHC/ART, Montreal, QC
Ready Player Two, Sonny Assu and Brendan Tang, The Reach Gallery Museum, Abbotsford, BC (Duo, travelling to Yukon Arts Centre, Touchstones Nelson: Museum of Art and History, Niagra Artists' Centre, Art Gallery of York University, Illingworth Kerr Gallery)
L'Offre, DHC/ART Foundation for Contemporary Art, Montréal, QC

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2016:

Neon NDN, SAW Gallery, Ottawa, ON
INDIAN ACTS: Truths in the Age of Reconciliation, Katzman Contemporary, Toronto, ON
Canadian Belonging(s), Art Gallery of Mississauga, ON
Culture Shift, Art Mur, Montreal, QC
When Raven Became Spider, Dunlop Art Gallery, Regina, SK

2015:

HIP-HOP: du Bronx aux rues arabes, Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France
Fifth World, Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, SK
The Rebel Yells, FOFA Gallery, Montreal, QC

2014:

Beat Nation: Art, Hip Hop and Aboriginal Culture, Mackenzie Art Gallery, Regina, SK
Storytelling: The Contemporary Native Art Biennial, 2nd edition, Art Mur, Montréal, QC

2013:

Sakahana: International Indigenous Art, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON
The Artist Poster Show, Burnaby Art Gallery, Burnaby, BC
Beat Nation: Art, Hip Hop and Aboriginal Culture, MAC, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal, Montreal, QC
Qui suis-je ? L'identité autochtone au 21^e siècle, Art Mur, Montreal, QC

2012:

Beat Nation, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC (traveling to The Power Plant, Toronto, ON)
Throw Down, Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Victoria, BC
A Stake in the Ground: Contemporary Native Art Manifestations, Art Mur, Montreal, QC
Toolkit, MKG127, Toronto, ON

2011:

Shore, Forest and Beyond: Art From the Audain Collection, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC
Decolonize Me, Ottawa Art Gallery, Ottawa, ON
Art, Revolution and Ownership, New Forms Festival 11, Waldorf Hotel, Vancouver, BC
Don't Stop Me Now, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, ON
We: Vancouver, 12 Manifestos for the City, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC

2010:

Exhibit E: Rennie Collection at Wing Sang, Vancouver, BC
The Home Team, Gallery2, Equinox Gallery, Vancouver BC
Alternorthern, The LAB, San Francisco, CA
Endlessly Traversed Landscapes, Vancouver, BC
Seattle City Lights Portable Works, Part III: Seattle, WA

2009:

Challenging Traditions: Contemporary First Nations Art of the Northwest Coast, McMichael Gallery, Kleinburg, ON
Continuum: Vision and Creativity on the Northwest Coast, Bill Reid Gallery, Vancouver, BC

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PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

2014: Reconciliation, Commissioned Public Art (Temporary) for the City of Vancouver
2013: Commissioned Public Art Work for Onni Development and the City of Vancouver
2012: Kingsway Trail, Commissioned Public Art Work for the City of Vancouver Public Arts Program

AWARDS

2021: Eiteljorg Contemporary Art Fellowship
2017: Laureate of the REVEAL Indigenous Art Award
2004/2007/2009/2010/2017: British Columbia Arts Council, Production Grant
2012/2013/2015: Sobey Art Award Long List, BC and Yukon Region
2015: Canada Council for the Arts, Travel Grant
2007/2012: Canada Council for the Arts, production Grant
2011: British Columbia Achievement Foundation, Award of Excellence in First Nations Art
2007: Emily Carr University, Emily Award, Distinguished Alumni Award
2003: First Peoples' Cultural Foundation, Emerging Individual Artists Grant
2003: The Vancouver Foundation, Visual Arts Development Awards (VADA)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sonny Assu: A Selective History

Janet Rogers (Forward), Candice Hopkins, Marianne Nicolson, Richard Van Camp, Ellyn Walker (Authors)
Publishers: Heritage House (Canada), University of Washington Press (US)

Decolonize Me

Heather Igloliortie, Steven Loft and Brenda Croft
Publisher: Ottawa Art Gallery

Shore, Forest and Beyond: Art from the Audain Collection

Ian M. Thom and Grant Arnold
Publisher: Douglas & McIntyre

Challenging Traditions: Contemporary First Nations Art of the Northwest Coast

Ian M. Thom
Publisher: University of Washington Press

Beat Nation: Art Hip Hop and Aboriginal Culture

Kathleen Ritter and Tania Willard
Publisher: Vancouver Art Gallery

HIP HOP, du Bronx aux rues arabes

Olivier Cachin (Editor), Bernard Zekri, Karim Hammou, Reda Zine, Christian Bethune, Christian Omodeo, Claire Calogirou, Mark Levine, Anders Ackfedt, Jean-Pierre Filiu, Yassin "The Narcicyst" Alsalman (Authors)
Publisher: Institut du monde arabe

Emily Carr: Fresh Seeing

Kiriko Watanabe, Kathryn Bridge, Robin Laurence, Michael Polay
Publisher: Figure 1 and Audain Art Museum

Tragedy Plus Time: I Laughed, I Cried, I Split My Side

Blair Fornwalk, Jennifer Matotek, Wendy Peart, Dagmara Genda, Michael Davidge
Publisher: Black Dog Publishing

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Sonny Assu: A Radical Mixing
Verity Steward, Dennison Smith, Lindsay Nixon
Publisher: The Baldwin Gallery

Longing
Darrin Morrison (Forward), Heather Igloliorte, Dion Kliner, Kathleen Ritter (Authors)
Publisher: West Vancouver Museum

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Aboriginal Art Centre
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
Art Gallery of Guelph
Art Gallery of Ontario
Audain Art Museum
Bank of Montreal
Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture
Burnaby Art Gallery
Canada Council Art Bank
Canaccord Genuity
Cathay Pacific Airways
City of Richmond Permanent Collection
City of Seattle, Office of Cultural Affairs, Permanent Collection
Eiteljorg Museum
Equitable Bank
Foreign Affairs Canada Visual Art Collection
Hydro Quebec
Indigenous Art Collection, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois
Lotto Quebec
Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery
Museum of Anthropology at UBC
Nanaimo Art Gallery
National Gallery of Canada
Scotiabank
Seattle Art Museum
TD Bank
Thunder Bay Art Gallery
Vancouver Art Gallery
Vancouver Club