

PRESS RELEASE



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Repellent Eye (Winnipeg) 2011 Installed at Manitoba Hydro Place as part of ***Close Encounters: The Next 500 Years***

January 12, 2011 – Winnipeg – A major artwork has been installed at Manitoba Hydro Place in anticipation of the international exhibition, *Close Encounters: The Next 500 Years*, opening January 22nd.

Close Encounters: The Next 500 Years will be an international exhibition of contemporary Indigenous art featuring work from more than 30 Indigenous artists from Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Finland and Brazil. The *Close Encounters* Main Exhibition space will be at 109 Pacific Avenue, with satellite locations throughout the city, including Manitoba Hydro Place.

Repellent Eye (Winnipeg) 2011 is a large rubber balloon, ten feet in diameter, inspired by Scare-Eyes used throughout the world as bird deterrents. It was created by the American art collective Postcommodity and installed at Manitoba Hydro Place along with work by local artists KC Adams and Linus Woods. In conjunction with *Close Encounters*, art tours of Manitoba Hydro Place will be offered to the public providing the opportunity to view the artwork throughout the state of the art building at 360 Portage Avenue. The tour will include pieces from the Manitoba Hydro art collection, which was started 2008. The collection focuses on Manitoba artists and consists of pieces from about 1970 to the present; including paintings, prints, sculpture and ceramics displayed in a stunning architectural setting.

Close Encounters is being presented by the Winnipeg Cultural Capital of Canada ARTS FOR ALL Program. It has been organized by Plug In ICA, the Winnipeg Art Gallery and URBAN SHAMAN: Contemporary Aboriginal Art and other partnering organizations.

For more information about *Close Encounters*, tours and artists, visit www.artsforall.ca.



Postcommodity on *Repellent Eye (Winnipeg) 2011:*

“In terms of law and policy, the balance of competing public interests (colonizer versus Indigenous) regarding the perception of land and the management of its resources has been one of the defining challenges of the past 500 years in Canada and the rest of the Western Hemisphere. *Repellent Eye (Winnipeg)* memorializes this history, while at the same time holds the present accountable, and provides a vision for repelling future devastating expressions of this logical framework as a means of achieving a more respectful and sustainable balance of land, culture and community.”

About Postcommodity:

Postcommodity is a contemporary American Indian artist collective comprised of Raven Chacon (Navajo), Kade Twist (Cherokee), Nathan Young (Delaware/Kiowa/Pawnee) and Steven Yazzie (Laguna/Navajo) that was founded in 2007. Postcommodity combines their intertribal Indigenous worldview with interdisciplinary actions and conceptual art practice as a means to engage in Indigenous human rights advocacy and decolonize the geographies and discourse of the Western Hemisphere. Postcommodity is a proud descendent of the American Indian self-determination movement that seeks to contribute to the larger postcolonial Indigenous narrative of social, cultural, political and economic perseverance.

Another work by Postcommodity, *Mother, Teacher, Destroyer*, will be installed at the Close Encounters Main Exhibition Site at 109 Pacific Avenue.

About KC Adams:

As an artist, KC Adams focuses on the investigation of the relationship between nature (the living) and technology (progress). Her work includes sculpture, installation, drawing, painting, photography, ceramics, printmaking and kinetic art. KC Adams has had several solo exhibitions, and has also been featured in numerous group exhibitions throughout Canada and abroad. She has received several grants and awards from Winnipeg Arts Council, Manitoba Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts. Twenty pieces from the *Cyborg Hybrid* series are in the permanent collection of the National Art Gallery in Ottawa. She graduated from Concordia University with a BFA and is based in Winnipeg.

Work at Manitoba Hydro Place:

Circuit City II, 2007

Circuit City III, 2007

Circuit City V, 2007

Circuit City VI, 2007

Circuit City IX, 2007

Courtesy the Artist

About Linus Woods:

Linus Woods is a Dakota/Ojibway artist from the Long Plain First Nation in Southern Manitoba, where he was born. Woods sees his paintings as expressions and extensions of his spiritual journey. His art- acrylic, oil and collage on canvas- is subtle work featuring pastel pallets and geometric shapes and often include collaged images. Linus Woods is a winner of the Peace Hills Trust Company Art Competition and his work is in the Peace Hills Trust Collection and in a number of other collections including Winnipeg Children's Hospital, Long Plain First Nation, Curtis Joony Productions, Brandon University and Mae Moore.

Work at Manitoba Hydro Place:

Spaceship over Troubled Water, 2010

The Speed of Light, 2010

Courtesy the Artist

