

Audrey Dreaver: No, I Do Not Speak Cree

February 3 - May 7, 2017

Opening: Fri. Feb. 10 @ 7:30pm

Artist Talk: Sat. Feb. 11 @ 1:30pm

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*NO. I do not speak Cree* is an exhibition of paintings, prints and sculptures that expresses and examines artist Audrey Dreaver's experience with Cree language loss. Through the works, Dreaver considers her place within her Cree culture and community, and whether her inability to speak Cree means that she is *less* Cree. This exhibition examines the reasons her family lost their language, and the effect this cultural loss has on people like Dreaver, other Crees who are not fluent in their language. Exploring the emotional and psychological impact of language loss on identity, Dreaver's work considers the current place of hybridity for many Cree peoples; existing in a new Cree paradigm where fluency in their language is no longer an essential element of Cree survival.

Audrey Dreaver is Plains Cree and grew up in Prince Albert. Her family comes from the Mistawasis and Ahtahkakoop Cree Nations of Saskatchewan. Dreaver received her MFA in painting from the University of Regina (2015), and her BFA in painting, printmaking, and sculpture, and BA in Museum Studies (curating) from the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Please check out Audrey Dreaver's interview with Indigenous Circle on CTV <https://www.facebook.com/creeson/videos/10154879862490071/>

Website image: Audrey Dreaver, *The Phone Call*, acrylic on canvas, 152.5 X 152.5 cm, 2015