

## **PA System**

*Alexa Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson*

PA System (Alexa Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson) work in textile, printmaking, painting, video, and public art. They create collaborative and socially-engaged projects namely in the high arctic, including their ongoing project with Inuit youth in Kinngait (Cape Dorset, Nunavut) called Embassy of Imagination.

Their work has been exhibited in institutions worldwide, such as the Royal Ontario Museum, The Art Gallery of Ontario, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona, University of New Mexico Art Gallery, Canada House in London and the Guanlan International Printmaking Base in China. In September 2019 they will be exhibiting their work in the inaugural Toronto Biennial of Art.

PA System has been involved in the Kinngait community for six years spending three months at a time activating their Embassy of Imagination workshops or projects with the youth. They lead out-of-community projects with smaller groups of the youth annually. Their work as PA System is currently informed by the significant time spent in Kinngait, as documents of moments, memories and the land, and reflects on how they may address issues or aspirations identified by the youth, with the youth.

They have partnered with the District Education Authority of Kinngait to launch PPStudio (printmaking program) and Land and Cultural Leadership Program. Equipment funding for the latter program is received from the sales of the collaborative Future Snowmachines in Kinngait ongoing project. The Snowmachines have been exhibited in the AGO and as a large scale installation at The Bentway.

**GENERAL HARDWARE** CONTEMPORARY

1520 Queen Street West, Toronto, M6R 1A4

www.generalhardware.ca Hours: Wed. - Sat., 12 - 6 pm

email: info@generalhardware.ca 416-821-3060



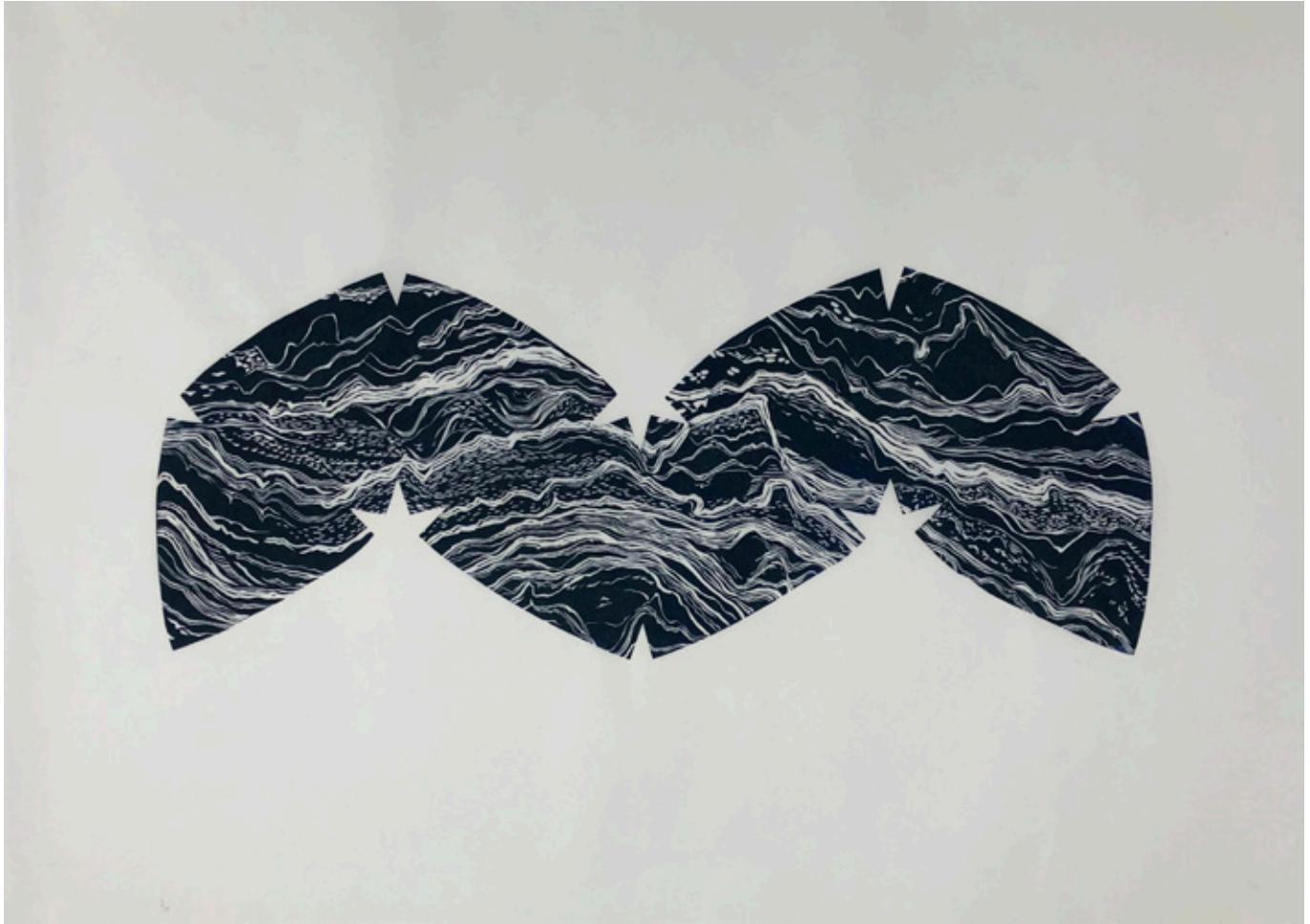
AGO installation image: EVERY EVERY. NOW. THEN: REFRAMING NATIONHOOD, 2017  
Curated by Andrew Hunter (the AGO's Fredrik S. Eaton Curator, Canadian Art) with Quill Christie-Peters (artist and youth educator), Anique Jordan (Exhibition Co-curator) and Laura Robb (AGO Interpretive Planner).



Image: Nuna/Land, Hand - printed linocut print on washi paper, 7.5 ft. x 6 ft.

Linoleum flooring from Peter Pitseolak School in Kinngait (Cape Dorset, NU), which burned down in 2015, was used to create the print Nuna/Land. The image was inspired by a photograph taken by the artists while skiing in Cape Dorset with local youth. The print in the context of an installation was included in the group exhibition, EVERY. NOW. THEN. REFRAMING:NATIONHOOD at the AGO.

Curated by Andrew Hunter with Quill Christie-Peters, Anique Jordan and Laura Robb



PA System  
(Alexa Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson)  
***Territory, 2018***

Hand - printed linocut print on washi  
28 x 41 inches, Limited Edition of 5

The artwork "*Territory*" was created by referencing a photograph taken by the artists of a cross section of a snowdrift. The graphic perimeter shape is derived from a flattened map of the moon.

"*Territory*" was inspired by the artwork *Nuna/ Land* that by happenstance the artists felt resembled a flattened moon map. This led the artists to think about the metaphorical connections between the arctic and the moon/space as far away places that the average person knows little about but captures their imagination, as sites of colonization and international power struggles, where outsiders project their aspirations. The star shapes that are formed suggest political conflict. The act of mapping a place is an effort to grasp or conquer it, to fit the place into ones own ideology. In this case if it were actually cut out and formed into a sphere it could be hand-held and suggests that it could possibly be cut out and turned into a sphere brings up notions of play or childhood which leads to feelings more like appreciation, wonder, and protectiveness.



PA System (Alexa Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson)

***Untitled, 2018***

painting and carving on panel, 16 x 12 inches

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PA System (Alexa Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson)

*First Snow, 2018*

painting and carving on panel, 18 x 14 inches

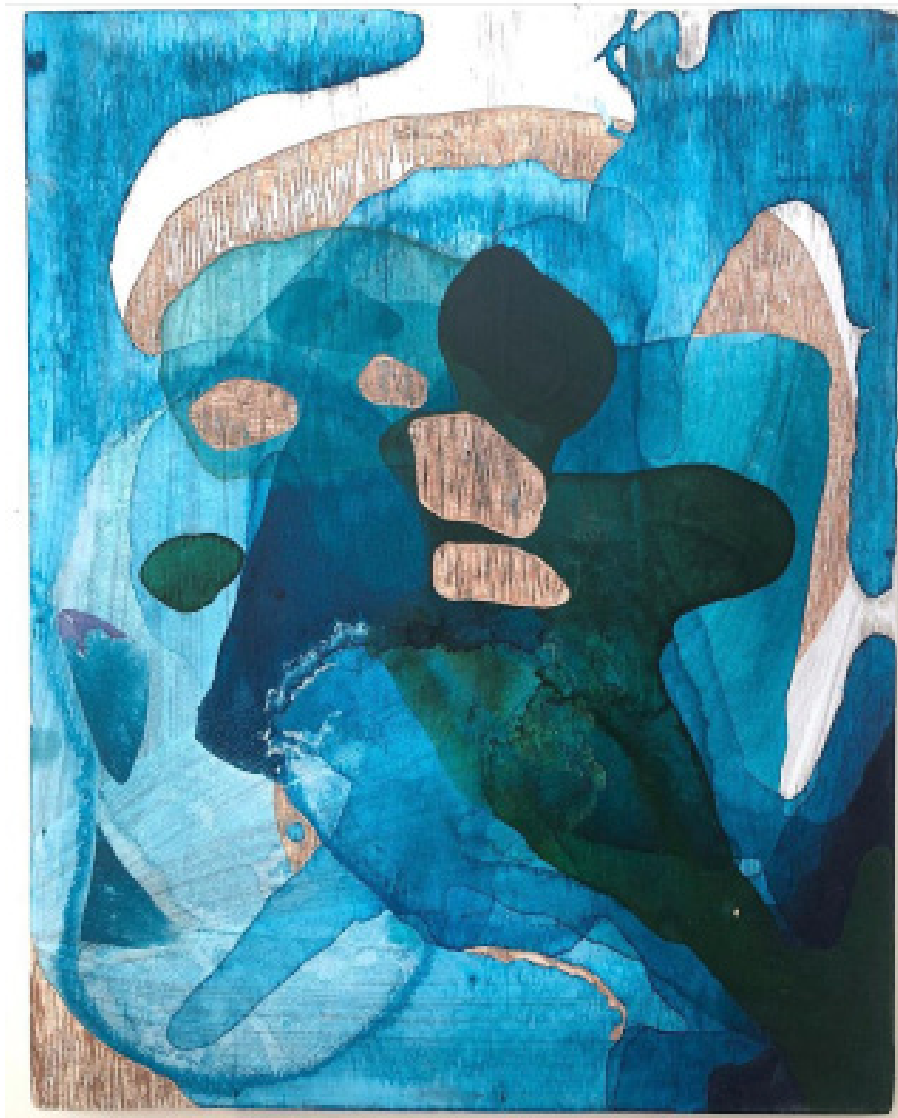


PA System (Alexa Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson)

*Untitled*

painting and carving on panel, 18 x 14 inches

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PA System (Alexa Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson)

***Puddle Jump***

painting and carving on panel, 18 x 14 inches



PA System (Alexa Hatanaka and Patrick Thompson)  
Snowform 1 (series) Edition of 5 (Alexa's footprints), 2019, plaster, 6" x 12" x 2"

## PA System

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## SELECT CV

2019

Jan. - Feb. 2019, PA System, General Hardware Contemporary, Toronto, ON

May 17 - June 17, PA System, Open Studio Gallery, 401 Richmond Street West, Suite #104 Toronto ON

Sept - Nov 2019, Embassy of Imagination & PA System, Toronto Biennial of Art, Toronto, ON

2018

Oct 14, 2017 - Jan 7, 2018, Lightning Speak: Solo and Collaborative Works of Raven Chacon, Colorado Springs Art Centre, Colorado Springs, CO

Jan 3 - March 22nd 2018, Global Pathways School, public art, Chettipalayam, India

June 14 - Aug 14 wind wind, The Trace Gallery, Zurich, CH (PA System)

2017

Every. Now. Then: Reframing Nationhood, Art Gallery of Ontario: June 28 - February 18, 2017

Flow Edge: New Art and Collaborations from the Nunavut, Urban Shaman, Winnipeg, MB

2016

Flow Edge: New Art and Collaborations from the North, AXENÉO7, Gatineau, QC

Flow Edge: New Art and Collaborations from the North, Canada House, London, UK

Training, Dundas West Junction Mural, Toronto, ON

A Love Letter to the Great Lakes, mural, PangeaSeed Foundation, Toronto, ON

Wall-to-Wall Art and Culture Festival, mural, Winnipeg, MB

Lost Faces, Group Show, The Trace Gallery, Zurich, CH

Lightning Speak: Solo and Collaborative Works of Raven Chacon, University of New Mexico Art Gallery, Albuquerque, NM

Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, mural, 516 ARTS and Albuquerque Public Art, NM

Gauge, Collaborative film made in Iqaluit, NU, Nuit Blanche at TIFF Bell Lightbox, Toronto, ON

2015

Darn Windy, Short Film, CBC: The Collective

Stanley Aviation, site-specific installations, Denver, CO

Dancing Kamiit, FGMD Architects, mural, Inukjuak, QC

Failed, with Adam Cutts, Ottawa Public Art, Ottawa, ON

Shibori Sherpa, site-specific installation, Wayhome Music and Arts Festival, Burl's Creek, ON

Piliriqatigiingniq, Curators and Facilitators of Mural by Inuit youth artists, Toronto, ON

Walking into the Unknown Tupiq, mural, Burlington Public Art, Burlington, ON

Kinngait Studios, artist in residence, Cape Dorset, NU

The Divadale Project, site-specific collaborative installation, Toronto, ON

2014

Larding and Barding, Solo Show, The Trace Gallery, Zurich, CH  
Concordia University, mural, Montreal, QC  
SKEIN, mural, S.T.E.P.S Initiative, Toronto, ON  
Mine Your Imagination, West Baffin Eskimo Co-op, Cape Dorset, NU

2013

Year of Reconciliation, Public Art Platform, Vancouver, BC  
Glenalmond School, mural, Perthshire, Scotland  
Happy Anniversary, World Pride 2014 public mural, Toronto, ON  
Guanlan International Printmaking Biennale Exhibition, Shenzhen, China  
Volvo Art Session, Installation, film and book, Zurich, CH  
Elders and Youth House Mural, Hall Beach, Nunavut

2012

Evoke's Pancake House, Solo Show, Montana Gallery, Barcelona, Spain  
Amos Waites Park, public murals, with Lakeshore Arts, Toronto, ON  
Festival Murales, Escosesa Studio, Barcelona, Spain  
Kingulliit Productions and Rockin Walrus Festival mural, Igloolik, NU  
20 under 30, Group Show, Ontario Crafts Council, Toronto, ON

2011

Think Tent, Solo Show, Le Labo, Toronto, Ontario  
Untitled Public murals, Kangiqsujuaq, Nunavik  
Donnaconna, La Place Forte, Paris, France

2010

Choose Your Own Adventure, Solo Show, Articulate Baboon Gallery, Cairo, Egypt  
Housepaint Part2 - Shelter, Royal Ontario Museum, ICC, 2009

## **TEXTS**

2018

cmagazine 136, Winter 2018 Site/ation, ... On the land, on the body, on and off the walls. by Jamie Isaac

## **AWARDS**

2017 New Chapter Canada Council for the Arts  
2016 Canada Council for the Arts: Visual Artist Project Grant  
2015 Americans for the Arts Public Art Network, Outstanding Works of 2014  
2015 Ontario Arts Council Travel Grant  
2015 Canada Council for the Arts Travel Grant  
2014 Guanlan Printmaking Base Biennial  
2014 Canada Council for the Arts Travel Grant  
2014 Ontario Arts Council: Craft Development  
2013 Canada Council for the Arts, Production Grant for Group Video Project  
2012 Ontario Arts Council: Chalmers Fellowship