

Ahasiw Maskegon-Iskwew, May 2005

Ahasiw Maskegon-Iskwew is Métis from northern Alberta. He is editor of the online Aboriginal arts magazine ConunDrumOnline.ca that premiered April 2005 produced by Urban Shaman Gallery, and has recently completed work as rapporteur for the online performance art discussion *After the Facts* produced by Fado Performance Art. He is a graduate of Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. His initial practice in media-integrated performance art has evolved toward web-based media art, critical writing and curating. In May 2005 Maskegon-Iskwew was awarded a two year Aboriginal curatorial residency grant by the Canada Council for the Arts to pursue the theme *Storm Spirits: The Cultural Ecology of Aboriginal New Media Art* at Urban Shaman Gallery.

From 1987-90 he was Performance Art Program Coordinator, Gallery Administrator and Board Member for the Pitt Gallery in Vancouver. Subsequently, during a two year Equity Arts Administration Internship at the Canada Council he initiated, coordinated and wrote the report for a Canada Council First Peoples Languages Literature Recognition and Support Consultation Meeting in Vancouver (1994). While at an internship residency with the Aboriginal Film and Video Art Alliance at the Banff Centre, Maskegon-Iskwew wrote the report for the gathering Drumbeats to Drumbytes on electronic networks for Aboriginal artists (1995). Maskegon-Iskwew went on to become Program Coordinator, Assistant Editor of Talking Stick First Nations Arts Magazine and Acting Executive Director for Circle Vision Arts Corp. He is a founding member of Sâkêwêwak Artists' Collective; was Manager of SOIL Digital Media Suite at Neutral Ground Artist-Run Centre; and worked as digital community art producer with youth at risk and sex trade workers for Common Weal in Regina. He was also Web Editor for the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network from 2000-2004.

At the Pitt Gallery he presented a wide variety of visual art works, performance art, new music, film, video and spoken word - including some of the first Aboriginal performance art works in Vancouver. In 1990 he was also part of the technical facilitation team for the *Edge 90 International Performance, Installation, and Video Biennale* in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne UK, directed by Rob La Frenais, for projects including Marina Abramovic's *Dragon Heads* and Isaac Julien's *Looking for Langston*. In 1995 he and Debra Piapot co-curated the exhibition *nanâtawihitowin-âcimowina (Healing Stories): Three Collaborative First Peoples Performances* at the Walter Phillips Gallery in Banff. In 1996 Maskegon-Iskwew was artistic director, coordinator and collaborative artist in the first major online Aboriginal arts collaboration project *isi-pîkiskwêwin-ayapihkêsîsak (Speaking the Language of Spiders)* at the Banff Centre for the Arts. While Production Manager for SOIL Digital Media Production Suite he facilitated the production and presentation of numerous artist's works including Sheila Urbanoski and Bill Burns, and was web editor and performance artist in the collaborative web-integrated performance and installation project *Mexterminator II* directed by Guillermo Gomez Peña and Roberto Sifuentes with the Red Tattoo Ensemble. In 2002 he curated *Signified: Ritual Language in First Nations Performance Art* with the performance art work of Reona Brass and Bently Spang at Sâkêwêwâk Artists' Collective.

He has exhibited internationally and his critical writing has been published in the Talking Stick, Fuse, MIX and the anthologies *The Multiple and Mutable Subject*, and *Caught in the Act*. New articles will be appearing in the anthologies *Transmission, Technology and Tradition*; *INDIANacts*; and *Tiré à part/Off Printing*. He is currently under contract to the trAce Online Writing Centre (Nottingham Trent University UK) to produce a piece on *Métis Identity in the Digital Landscape*, and has been invited to submit a proposal to the peer-reviewed Leonardo Electronic Almanac (MIT Cambridge) under their general theme *Wild Nature and the Digital Life*. The next issue of ConundrumOnline.ca premieres July 2005.

Ahasiw Maskegon-Iskwew Bibliography

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