

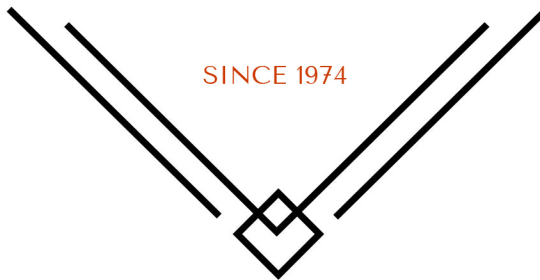
# BARRY ACE

NAYAANO  
NIBIIMAANG  
GICHIGAMIIN





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**OJIBWE CULTURAL FOUNDATION**



SINCE 1974



Ontario  
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ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
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Aboriginal Affairs and  
Northern Development Canada

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## Waaboowan Miinwaa Mnomanjwaang

Pii Anishinaab miig wet waaboowan niibna te enedaagoongaadeg washe gchi mnowaabmewhziit gaa wiiyaah, wankiiwendmowin, mnobimaadziwin, miinwaa nogdoowendewin.

Naandaa waaboowanan, Barry Ace ezhitoojin, Gchi Gaamiin je, mii maada eshi waabjigaadek newi. Newi waaboowanan pii waamdoowem mii zhi temgak wii gkenjigaademgak gaa bee zhizhibiziiwad Anishinaabek zhwii Gichi Gaaming gaa zhiwaabjigewaas gii begchi znagziwat miinwaa gchi gshkitoonah wii mnonaaggaweziivaad. Wi megwaa etemgak noongo daankaaznaah wii waamdoowet gaashishii-ii-iwaat gegoo zhitoowaat gchi zhaazhi. Barry Ace kidaa naahaak Hudsons Bay Company miinwaa gaa zhinokaazaang waaboowanan dibezhkoo zhoo'yaa.

Miidash noong aapje niizaandoon Gchi Gaamiin kina goji bejibaabgat wiibenaachjigaademgaak dash nwi. Tamgaad kendmaaziiwin gaabe zhizhwibziwat Anishinaabek giibegdagtood wii gkendmowad myaah go gaabi zhiwibag miinwaa mno bimaadziwin wii bibaanodchigaademgaak.

Naandaa waaboowanan gaa zhijegaadegan newije Gchi Gamiin kina wiiwaabdaamaang ezhiwebsk newi. Wnesh ge giiniwi gezhchigengobaa wii waadowenhying eshizaagtooying Gchi Gamiin eshi gchi kenoomaading wii nogdowendiziimgak newi. Wii waab ndowehying kina mziakiing naadmaagemgak, maada aapjinishing nbiish oodi bezigkaamgaak. Aniish ge shimaajishkaayiiing? Begesh na bebezhiig wiikgejitoowad wii waabndowewaad eshi gchi pii tendmowaad newi Gchi Gaamiin. Mii dash je mnaadaadenjigaademgaak newi Gchi Gamiin eshdoowenedaagaggwag.

## Waubwun: blankets and tenderness

Love and caring are beyond universal, the first and deepest human emotions present from birth. Acts of caring and tenderness are so important to the human soul that when they are witnessed or shared, even if not directly intended for the viewer, they land deep in the lasting recollections of the heart.

In Anishinaabe culture the gift of a blanket is one such gesture. It intends a caring for the recipient that goes beyond the tangible, a wish for physical comfort, hope for safety, and protection from the elements. When the blanket is handmade the intentions amplify, to enrobe the loved one in colours and symbols, to champion them, adorn them. It is a gift that proclaims the tenderness of affection.

The blankets Barry Ace has created for the Great Lakes are just such a gesture. These blankets address the common history of our peoples on this amphitheater of Great Lakes as they have borne witness to our struggles and triumphs. Using modern materials and traditional designs, Ace references the Hudsons Bay Company, and the historical use of blankets as currency. Now more than any time in our shared history our lakes are threatened on all sides. These bodies of water that hold the memory of our peoples are struggling to maintain clarity, and health in the face of growing industrial attack. These blankets created for each of the Great Lakes are a call to all of us. How can we too show our love and affection for this amazing system. Recognizing its importance globally as a major source of the world's fresh water, how will we choose to move forward? Hopefully in the manner of individuals who take the time to feel and express love, and tenderness, leading to the respect this remarkable watershed deserves.

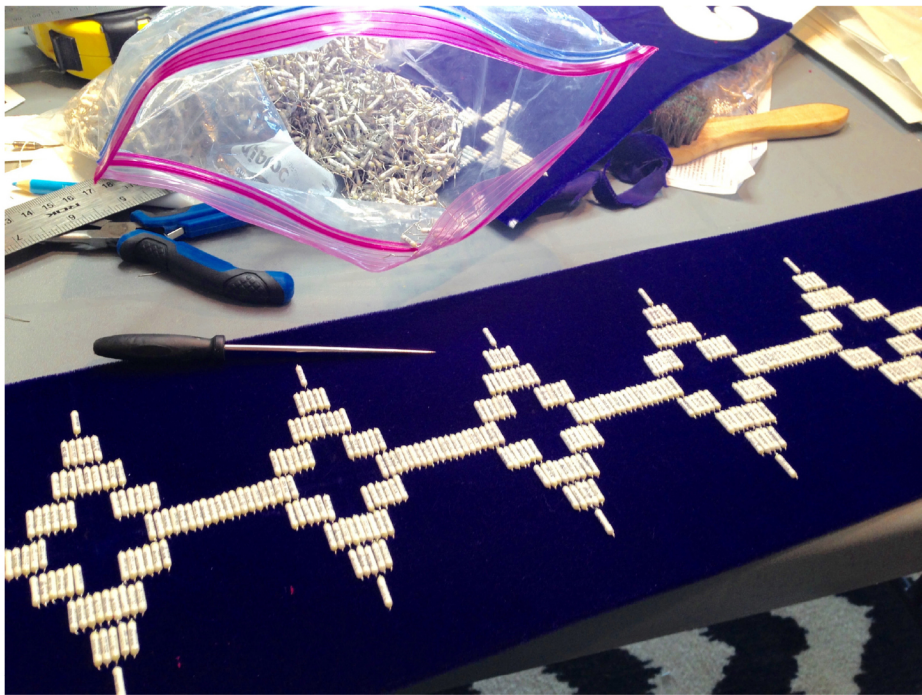
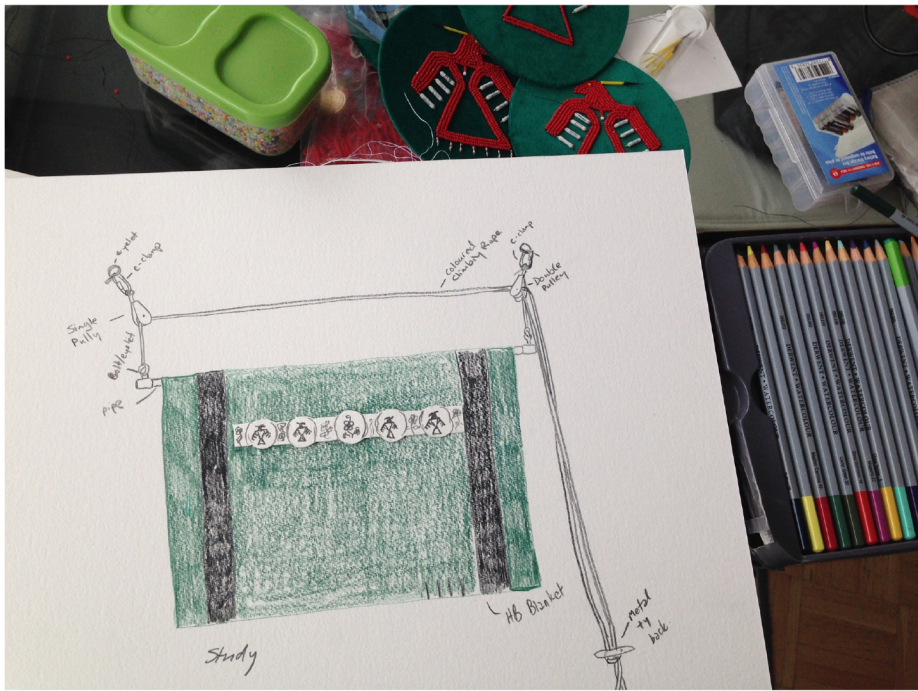
Anong Beam  
Art Director  
Ojibwe Cultural Foundation

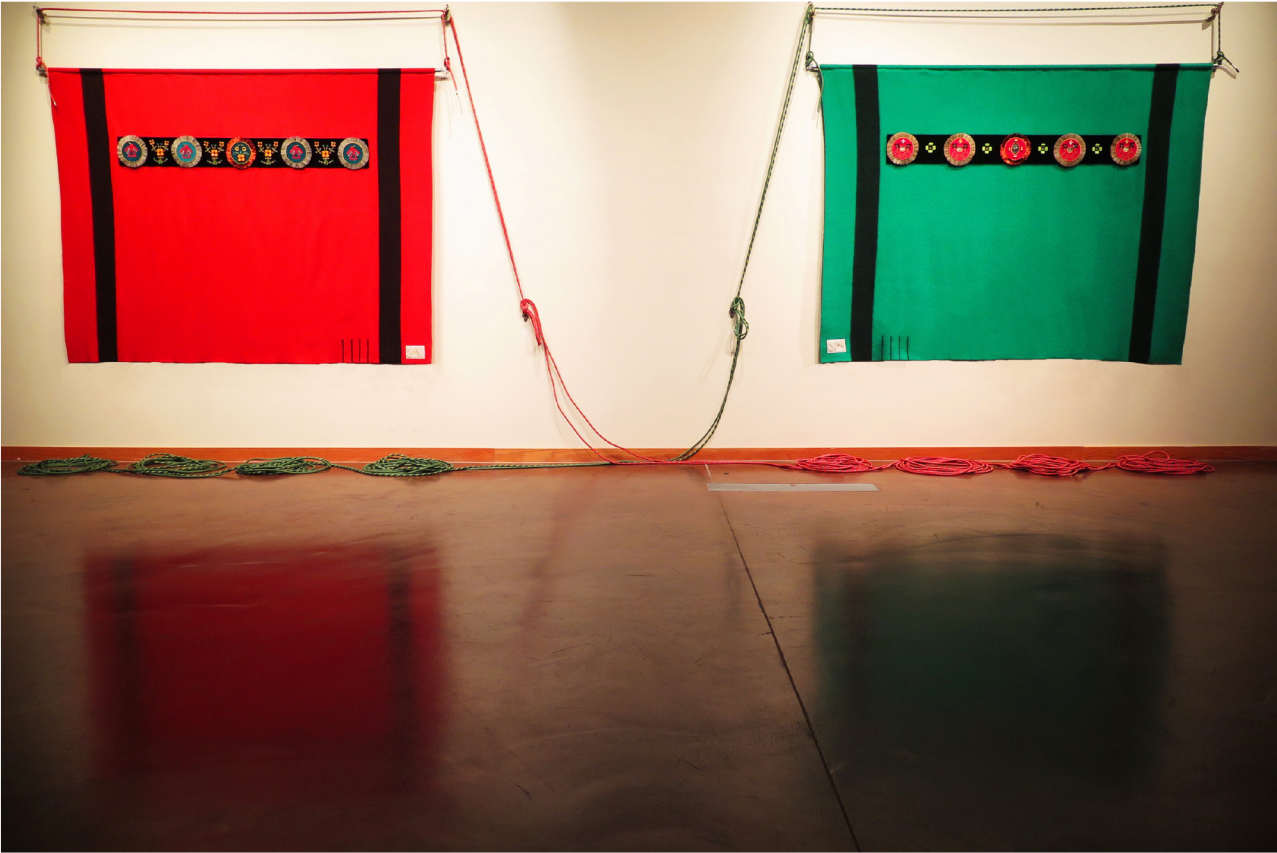


Barry Ace is a practicing visual artist and the recipient of the K.M. Hunter Visual Artist Award for 2015. Drawing inspiration from multiple facets of traditional Anishinaabeg culture, he creates objects and imagery that utilize many traditional forms and motifs. He then disrupts the reading of these works with the introduction of other elements, endeavouring to create a convergence of the historical and the contemporary. His work can be found in numerous public and private collections in Canada and abroad. He is a band member of M'Chigeeng First Nation, Manitoulin Island (Ontario) and is represented by Kinsman Robinson Galleries in Yorkville (Toronto).

### Nayaano-nibiimaang Gichigamiin: The Great Lakes

This exhibition presents a new series of Anishinaabeg honouring blankets and Anishinaabeg honouring bandoliers for The Five Great Lakes; M'Chigeeng First Nation; and Lake Mindemoya. Hudson Bay trade blankets are adorned with individual blanket strips with intricate floral motifs composed from glass beads and electronic components (capacitors, resistors, and diodes). Each blanket is a homage to Nayaano-nibiimaang Gichigamiin as the traditional homeland of the Anishinaabeg. Animated Anishinaabeg bandoliers are individually embellished with complex beadwork and electronic component floral motifs and embedded with new media digital tablets streaming images and video acknowledging the long-standing cultural continuity and the on-going confluence between the historical and contemporary in Anishinaabeg culture.







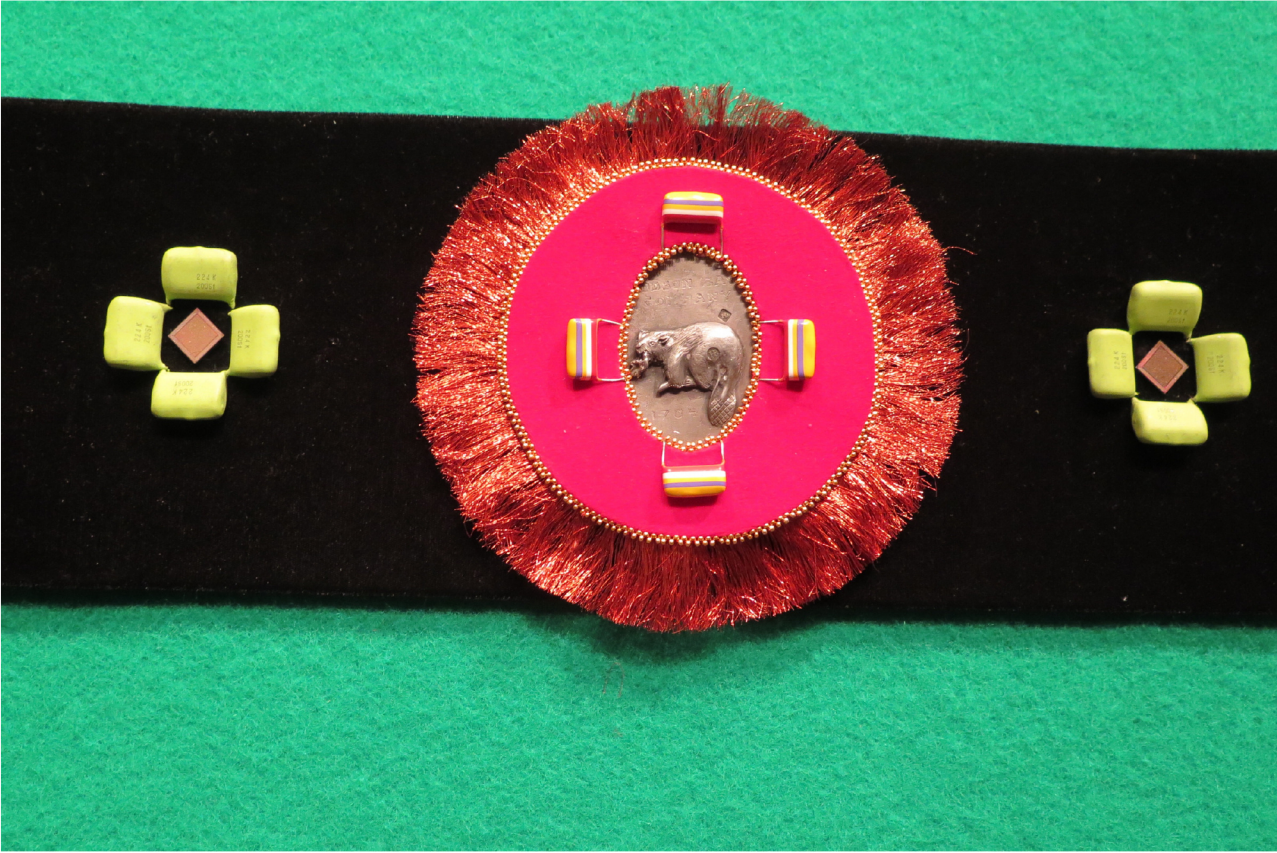


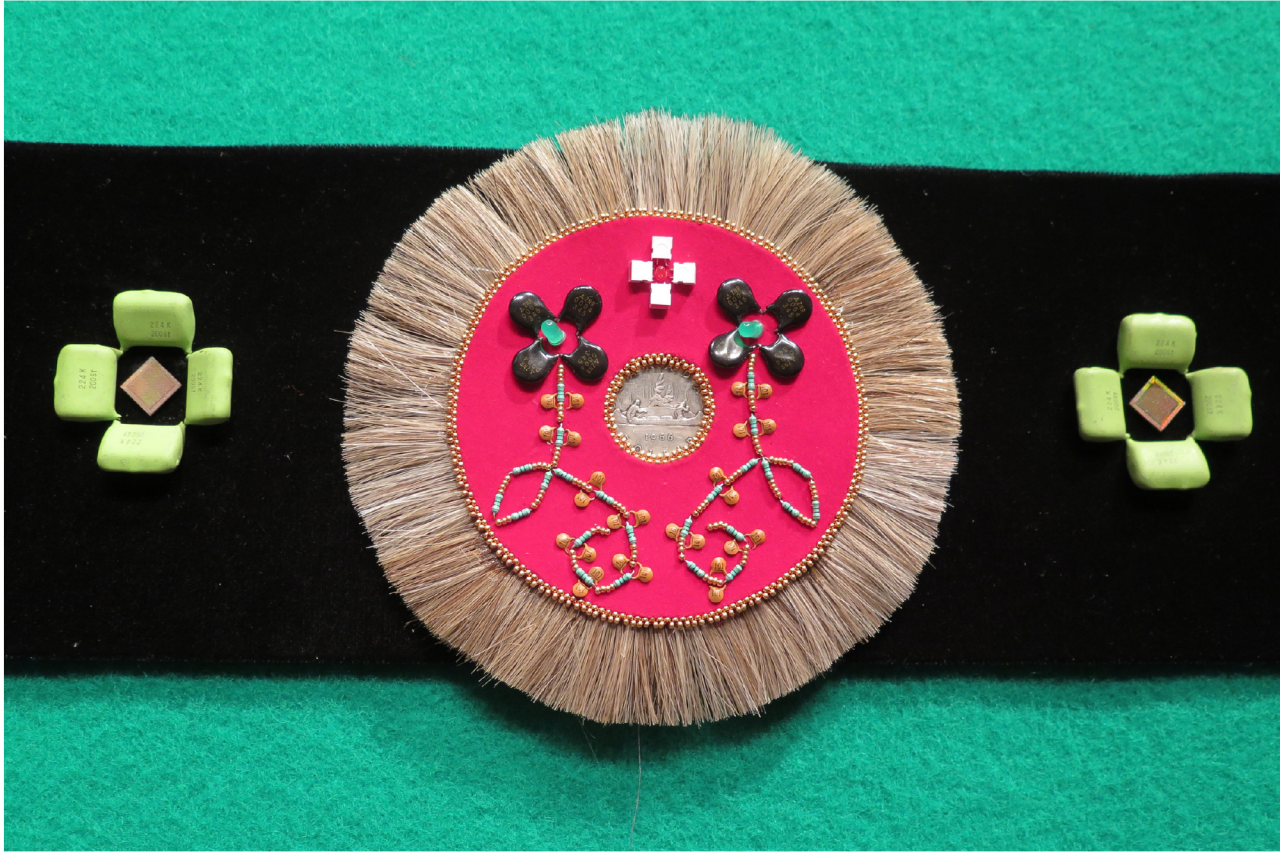






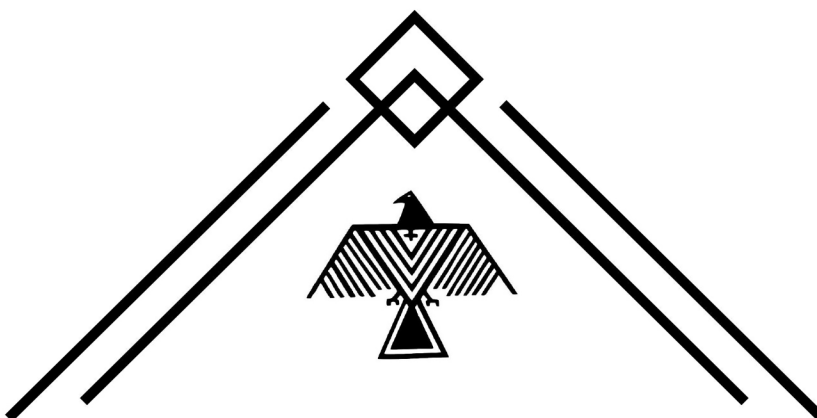






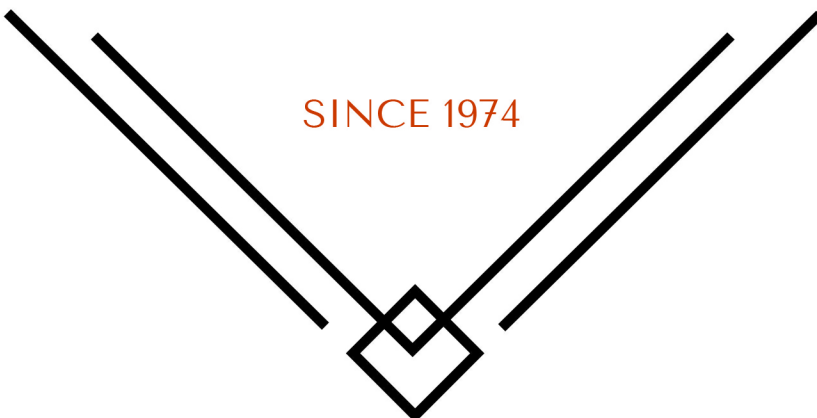






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