



Wilderness & First Nations- Inspired Art

Bartlett Gallery in the Alton Mill

September 24th to November 7th, 2010

Artists' talk/performance and Reception Oct. 15

**Featuring the works of Paul Morin, John Laford,
Rene Meshake and Anuk Tush (with Deborah Cachia).**

Join us for this spectacular presentation of Wilderness and First Nations-inspired art at the Bartlett Gallery in the historic Alton Mill.

In Ojibwe, sagateh means “it shines, it gives light (the sun or the moon)”. The Icelandic origin of the word saga refers to “what is said, statement” or “story, tale, history”. John Laford and Rene Meshake are Ojibwe, Anuk is Innu from Labrador and Paul Morin has Icelandic heritage. **[Saga]teh** brings together a unique collection of First Nations and wilderness-inspired art in an exhibition which is the meeting of two cultures, each giving light to one another!

On the evening of Friday October 15th the public is invited to attend an intimate evening of presentations and performances by Rene Andre Meshake, Paul Morin and Anuk Tush. 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Paul Morin

Paul is an artist, musician, photographer and illustrator of over a dozen books, and his artwork has been exhibited in museums across Canada including the Museum of Civilization. He has traveled to Africa, Australia, China and throughout North, Central and South America to research the cultural and settings for each story he has illustrated. His career has taken on a new dimension which allows him to incorporate his interests in travel, anthropology and mythology. It is traditional cultures that interest Paul because they are grounded in the importance of earth, spirit, harmony and wisdom.

Rene Andre Meshake

This author/illustrator, storyteller, visual artist, spoken-word performer, musician and filmmaker lives in Guelph, Ontario. By seamlessly fusing Ojibwe and English words into his stories, poetry and spoken word performances, Rene communicates his Ojibwe spiritual heritage to the contemporary world. He was born in the railway town of Nakina in northwestern Ontario and was raised by his Okomissan (grandmother). Greatly influenced by the Anishinaabe oral tradition, language and culture, Rene's body of artwork and his personal life experiences create a strong, expressive, and entertaining presentation.

John Laford

A highly accomplished native artist and Canada Council award recipient, John is an Ojibway born in Manitoulin Island, Ontario. His work, inspired by the shores of his Lake Superior home, has been exhibited throughout Canada, the United States and Spain, and includes permanent exhibits at the National Museum of Civilization (Hull,

Quebec), at the Royal Ontario Museum (Toronto, Ontario), and the Museum of Anthropology (University of British Columbia).

Anuk A Tush (drummer)

Native born, Sheshashiu, Labrador raised.

Learned in the ways of the Land, Anuk's crafts were handed down to him from his Grandmother and Father and other First Nations Elders. Anuk's crafts include Drums, Native Art in paint, pen, pencil, ink, leather crafts, carved wood and stone and bows and arrows, rattles, dream catchers.

Evening of presentations and performances **Friday October 15th 7:00 to 9:00 pm**

Paul Morin will introduce "Watermarks", his new series of music, video and painted works followed by the screening of a 24-minute art video from the series. Much of Paul's work is strongly influenced by water. Many First Nation peoples regard water as the "FIRST" medicine. For millennia it has been employed as a sacrament in traditional ceremonies. The rhythm of waves as they grow in strength and then begin to diminish, echo the cycle of life. By looking back toward our sacred connection with this most abundant element it is possible to connect with our origins and nourish a relationship with creation in all its forms for a glimpse of the light within us all.

Rene Meshake will share and celebrate Ojibwe spiritual heritage in a presentation featuring music, art and the spoken word. He will speak about the symbolism and spiritual aspects of his art, and his quest for 'truth and reconciliation' in his healing journey as a residential school survivor. He will be performing his poems in both Ojibwe and English.

Everyone in the world is a drummer, before we're born as we all listen to the heart of our Mother. The Native drum always begins with the rhythm of a heart. **Anuk A Tush** and friends will give a performance of native drumming, and will be available after the performance to answer audience questions.

This exhibition has been jointly produced by the Alton Mill, the Bartlett Gallery and Headwaters Arts. A portion of the proceeds from sales goes to support Headwaters Arts.

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As one of the principal venues for the Headwaters Arts Festival, the Alton Mill is at the centre of artistic excellence in the region, with a variety of shows and events throughout the fall. For more information see [www.altonmill.ca](http://www.altonmill.ca).

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The **Alton Mill** in the village of Alton, Ontario was built in 1881 by William Algie and operated as the Beaver Knitting Mill. It has recently been lovingly rehabilitated by the Seaton Group, into an arts and heritage centre. The beautiful stone mill now houses art studios and galleries, offices for creative professionals, specialty retail, event spaces, a café and an industrial heritage exhibit. Awarded the Heritage Canada Foundation's national achievement award for adaptive reuse in 2009, the Alton Mill stands proudly on the banks of Shaw's Creek, a tributary of the Credit River, next to the Millcroft Inn in the heart of the Caledon hills. Located just south of Orangeville, it is a scenic 45-minute drive northwest of Toronto.

Alton Mill Arts Centre

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Wed-Sun 10 am -5 pm

