



Indigenous Art Exhibition

March 8 to 29

COCHRANE, AB

Art of the Land, Heart of the People

This exhibition is an exciting new feature launched as part of the 3rd Annual Cochrane Indigenous Arts & Culture Week. This annual event offers our community a chance to celebrate, learn, reflect, and connect with the Indigenous peoples of these traditional lands through the stories, art, and music they share.

This exhibition grew from that celebration and expanded into a larger multi-venue art exhibition through the Cochrane Public Library's *Weaving Connections: Indigenous Culture, History, and Healing initiative*, supported by the Government of Alberta's Ethnocultural Grant. Weaving Connections focuses on deepening understanding of Indigenous histories, strengthening relationships, and creating meaningful opportunities for cultural learning within our community.

We are honoured to present this exhibition as a first-time collaboration between the Cochrane Public Library, Route 22 Artist Collective, and Wazin Îchinabi Ti. Their creativity, guidance, and dedication have shaped this Art Walk into an engaging cultural experience for everyone who visits.

As you explore the artwork, we encourage you to download the Cultural Compass App to engage with the augmented murals. Through this app, you can not only view the beautiful artworks but also hear the voices, stories, and teachings shared by the artists and knowledge keepers themselves.

Thank you for taking the time to walk through this gallery and experience this collective celebration of culture, creativity, and community. We are grateful for your presence and hope this exhibition inspires learning, reflection, and connection.



Pinecone painting (Wathûgitabi)
Wathûgitabi (Stoney Nakoda)
“preparing for the harvest”

- How does First Peoples' relationship to plants and animals differ from the dominant society?
- How can we learn to see our natural world through an Indigenous lens?
- How do Treaty obligations support co-management of our abundant natural resources?
- What are the potential consequences on nature through urban expansion and industrial development?

Cover images:

Top Left *Jason Botkin*

Top Right *Dennis & Daisynae Labelle*

Middle *Amber Boyd*

Bottom Left *Dennis & Daisynae Labelle*

Artist: Amber Boyd

Amber was a Métis writer, artist, and community leader who served as District Captain for the Rocky View Métis District with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government and as a member of Banff National Park's Indigenous Advisory Circle. A published author, her work appeared in the best-selling anthology *Above and Beneath*, and her memoir *Blood, Bannock, and Bead* was released in 2025. Alongside her writing, Amber was also a visual artist whose painting, beadwork, and photography were featured in Indigenous art exhibitions throughout the Calgary region. She passed away in January 2026, leaving a lasting legacy through her storytelling, art, and advocacy for Indigenous communities.



Artist: Dennis & Daisynae Labelle

Dennis Labelle is an Iyârhé (Stoney) Nakoda multidisciplinary artist from the Stoney Nakoda Nation whose work records the people, history, and spirit of his Nation. Working in acrylic, watercolor, oil, drawing, beadwork, sewing, carving, and other traditional crafts, he creates powerful portrayals of Nakoda warriors, matriarchs, leaders, and spiritual figures. Through layered colour and storytelling, his art honours the teachings of Elders and the resilience of his people. Labelle shares his work through exhibitions and through D Labelle Studios, a creative platform he co-founded with his daughter to celebrate and share Nakoda stories, traditions, and artistry.



Artist: Dennis & Daisynae Labelle



The jingle dancer depicted in the sculpture *She Who Dances for Healing*, created by Malann Klassen and Lara Kruger and installed next to The Station, is inspired by Daisynae Labelle.

Wagichi há githnî íchîyach
(Waa-gee-chee huh gee-th-knee ee-chee-yao-ch)

She Who Dances for Healing

Artists: Malann Klassen and Lara Kruger

This life-sized bronze depicts a traditional jingle dancer and young *lyârhé* woman from the Stoney Nakoda Nation. Real jingle cones adorn the dancer, their movement and sound bringing the piece to life.

The piece embodies healing, resilience and cultural pride, it honours the presence, strength and deep connection of indigenous people to Cochrane & Treaty 7.

Artist: Jason Botkin

Lloyd “Buddy” Wesley

Jason Botkin

Born in Denver, Colorado in 1974 and raised in Winnipeg, is an artist known for his extensive mural work. A 1997 honors graduate of the Alberta College of Art and Design, he has created over 200 murals worldwide and exhibited in solo and group shows across Canada, the U.S., and Europe. Jason believes that the process of creating—focused on learning, growth, and self-discovery—is far more valuable than the finished piece, seeing it as a way to foster deeper connections through shared creativity.



Lloyd “Buddy” Wesley

Chiniki Band member, Stoney Nakoda Cultural Advisor, and Tribal Historian from Morley, Alberta. Deeply rooted in Nakoda traditions passed down through his family—including his great-grandfather Chief Peter Wesley—Buddy dedicated his life to sharing Stoney language, history, and culture. Beloved by students across Cochrane, Calgary, Canmore, Banff, and beyond, he saw himself as a bridge-builder, encouraging understanding through the phrase “wazin ̄eichninabi” (“I’m one with you”).

Augmented Reality Murals

A number of the works by Jason Botkin and Buddy Wesley have augmented reality integrated within the paintings to bring the voices, perspectives, and stories to life within the visuals. This collection is described by the artist(s) as a:

“collaborative residency at the Banff Centre between myself and Lloyd “Buddy” Wesley, a musician and Stoney Nakoda Nation Tribal Historian. This multimedia pilot project was created by my dear friend and collaborator Dawn Saunders-Dahl designed as a ‘satellite’ residency balanced between the reserve at M̄in̄i Thn̄i, Alberta and the [Banff] Centre. Buddy and I created a series of collaborative works, in a process of reconciliation through creative practice. I painted while Buddy made music and jokes about my shtick. On each painting I created, he claimed the space he needed with a single word that created a radical, and always poetic shift in meaning”.

To view the paintings and watch them come to life- download the APP and hold it up to the paintings!

For iPhone users download the Cultural Compass app from the App Store.



For Android users download the Cultural Compass app from the PlayStore.



Artist: Jason Botkin

Lloyd “Buddy” Wesley



Ear painting (Anârapâtâ)

Anârapâtâ (Stoney Nakoda) ... "listen to me"

- How do you see listening as a key factor to demonstrate impactful action towards reconciliation?
- Are there any examples in your experience that have been more effective at enacting reconciliation?



Apiîchiyabi (Stoney Nakoda)

Work in progress

- What Indigenous protocols have I heard about? What are the protocols for the community I'm working with?
- How can I be a part of building authentic relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples? What steps can I take to support the next generation's connection with the land?



Wanîch “saved”

Wanîch (Stoney Nakoda) “Saved”

- How does ceremony, tradition and cultural practices play a role in your own life for healing, connection and growth?
- How might the impacts of residential schools have disrupted the important role traditional spirituality and cultural practices have provided for Indigenous peoples?



Yowî îchi chiyabi: These mountains

Allowing Nature to Swallow Yourself

- How are the Stoney Nakoda People uniquely connected to the mountains?
- How are the mountains in this area a spiritual place for growth and reflection for you?



Châkathnude Cord of Life

Châkathnude (Stoney Nakoda) “Cord of Life”

- How did your elders teach about interconnectedness, how might that be related to the Indigenous culture of offering tobacco for the creator and mother earth?
- What does “treaty” mean?



Îyebi (Stoney Nakoda) – “Them”

- What do I know about my own cultural heritage? Where are my ancestors from?
- How do I understand the experience of Indigenous peoples in Canada's history and how can I create space for healing and reconciliation for future generations?

Love It! Buy It!

We are excited to share that many of the artworks featured in this exhibition are available for purchase. If a piece speaks to you, we invite you to take it home and continue supporting the creativity and voices of Indigenous artists in Treaty 7.

Route 22 Artist Collective is proudly handling all sales for this exhibition. If you're interested in purchasing a piece, simply take a photo of the artwork's information card and bring it to Route 22 Artist Collective Gallery. Their team will be happy to assist you with the purchase.

One of the most meaningful aspects of this exhibition is that 100% of the proceeds from all artwork sales go directly to the artists themselves. Each purchase directly supports an Indigenous artist and helps sustain their practice, their storytelling, and their contributions to our community.

Thank you for supporting local artists and celebrating Indigenous creativity.



Your Feedback Matters



If you've enjoyed the Indigenous Art Exhibition, please take a moment to complete our short survey. Your feedback helps us share the impact of this exhibition and meet the reporting requirements that allow us to continue offering meaningful cultural programs and exhibitions in Cochrane. Thank you.

Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/mP31pXG7sxqLjk8n6>



Works by the artists featured in this booklet are displayed at the following locations throughout Cochrane in honour of Cochrane Indigenous Arts & Culture Week 2026.

- A - Wazin Îchinabi Ti**
521 1 St W Unit 6, Cochrane, AB T4C 0A4
- B - Cochrane Public Library**
405 Railway St W, Cochrane, AB T4C 2E2
- C - The Station**
360 Railway St W, Cochrane, AB T4C 2E2
- D - Route 22 - Last Day: Mar. 22**
208 1 St W, Cochrane, AB T4C 1A5

