

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Exhibition: *LandEscape*

Artist: **Crystal Lee Clark**

Date: **February 7 to May 6, 2023**

Location: Feature exhibition – Staircase
Art Gallery of St. Albert
19 Perron Street, St. Albert, AB T8N 1E5
<https://www.artsandheritage.ca/products/landescape>

Events: **Reception:** February 25, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.
In-Person Tour: Thursday March 9 at 12 p.m.
Virtual Tour: Wednesday March 1 at 12 p.m.

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In *LandEscape*, fringes of fancy dance shawls flow into the landscape, merging with earth, water and sky. Together they create a beautiful and otherworldly landscape populated by stylized animals, plants and floating geometric shapes. **Crystal Lee Clark** merges ceremony, rematriation, celebration and the land. Clark's work creates space for joy, connection and story, honouring Indigenous culture's beauty.

The works are deeply inspired by both the land and her cultural identity, making them steeped in symbolism. Clark is an emerging artist of nêhiyawak (Cree), Dene, and Métis heritage, currently living in Rocky Mountain House (Treaty 6). Originally hailing from Fort McMurray (Treaty 8), her work looks at the animals, plants and people who have crossed the landscape for generations, including those that lived along the mihkwâpemek sîpîy (Red Willow River/The Sturgeon River).

Her pieces are a stunning mix of digital and physical art, seamlessly blending the best of both worlds. Inspired by imagination, observations and her photographs, the artist creates layers of colour and textures using digital and physical art-making tools. Figures and land become inseparable as each new layers add movement and story. The final works are brimming with vibrancy and life.

"Although we live in a digital world, we are rooted in our connection to and reliance on the natural world and all of its beauty," says Crystal Lee Clark. "My artistic approach includes merging the real-life beauty of Indigenous cultural ways of being, knowing and doing with digital tools and imagery that transform the aesthetic into a mixed media visual celebration that stimulates the audience through connection, wonder, observation and conversation."

LandEscape runs in the Art Gallery of St. Albert's staircase space **until May 6.**

