

ARIEL K. HILL

Lunar



Reflections



OJIBWE CULTURAL FOUNDATION

SINCE 1974

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"Lunar Reflections" an exhibition of the work of Ariel K. Hill
July 2023 - September 30, 2023

Curated by Shaelynn Recollet & Naomi Recollet

Canada 



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
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Curator Statement

When first coming upon Ariel Hill's blown-glass orbs, there is a feeling of peace that emerges from the depths of our spirit. At first glance, the themes of this exhibition aren't clear, but a sense and an understanding comes to the forefront of ones mind when seeing the thirteen vessels sitting in a circle on homemade stands. *These are a representation of the moons.*

Upon closer observation, the engravings on the glass vessels side reveal themselves, and the soft, delicate work depicting imagery that relate to the themes of seasonal changes, traditional teachings, and cultural activities taking place within each month appear one by one. The earrings that accompany these orbs depict complimentary motifs that relate to each moon, each season by use of carefully-considered colored delica beads.

When circling the exhibit (*maybe not the first time, but perhaps by the second or third time*), you begin to notice that not only are you able to see the months through the imagery engraved on the glass vessels or the seasons by color choices. You begin to notice your own reflection displayed on the clear surface of each moon, and perhaps a memory or two from each passing month comes back to mind. A purposeful intention by the artist as these moons also signify the changes within ourselves. Celebrating the arrival of a full moon, allows us to acknowledge and reflect on our personal growth and enables us to reconnect and become grounded as we continue to move forward.

What Ariel Hill has created with this exhibit is not only a showcase of her developing skills as a glass artist and beadworker; it has allowed myself to reflect on my own path, and to relive memories spent with family throughout each month and taking part in these cultural activities each season.

Shaelynn Recollet
Junior Curator
Ojibwe Cultural Foundation

Artist Statement

This body of work is an exploration of the teachings about the 13 Grandmother Moons* of the Anishinaabe lunar calendar. Each moon represents a time in the year that connects the people to the land and to spirit. By naming these full moons we are given cues to what is happening in the natural world. These teachings guide us through the year with knowledge about survival, ceremony and celebration.

In the last few years my artistic practice has shifted to include more cultural elements. I am fortunate to have been raised with the teachings of two Indigenous cultures, the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe People. These teachings have not always been directly present in my glass work, but rather related to the connection to land that I have always had as an Indigenous woman. I am enjoying this exploration of culture and craft and how the two can work together to share important work with the world.

I have included beadwork to compliment the glass sculptures as I have recently reconnected with this traditional craft. I find beadwork to be full of intention, patience and focus. Beading has taught me to take more time to reflect on my concepts and artistic vision.

Ariel k. Hill

* The 13 Grandmother Moon teachings are from "*Kinoomaadiewinan Anishinabek Bimaadinzinwin*", Book Two. Author: Arlene Berry.

Artist Biography

“My work is a reflection of my environment. I am interested in the intersection between elements of the natural world and how it relates to human experience. In my work I attempt to honour the visual beauty and fine details that exist within nature in order to evoke a sense of connection between the viewer and the subject matter. My patterns and colour palette reference vast landscape as well as microscopic details of stones, plants and other organic matter.”

Ariel Kesike Hill (AKH Studios) is an Indigenous artist hailing from the Six Nations and Wiikwemkoong First Nations. Hill holds a jewelry certificate from the Kootenay School of the Arts and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Alberta University of the Arts with a major in Glass. Hill is represented by Art First Gallery (Revelstoke, BC), Project A (Canmore, AB), Guildworks (Bloomfield, ON), Banff Trading Post (Banff, AB) and Coal Town Goods (Ferne, BC).



engraved blown-glass (2023)
accompanied by beaded fringe
earrings made with size 11 delica
beads, gold fill thread guard,
nylon thread, beeswax

Gchi-Mnidoo Giizis
(Big Spirit Moon)



engraved blown-glass (2023)
accompanied by beaded fringe
earrings made with size 11 delica
beads, gold fill thread guard,
nylon thread, beeswax

Mnidoo Giizis (Spirit Moon)



engraved blown-glass (2023)
accompanied by beaded fringe
earrings made with size 11 delica
beads, gold fill thread guard,
nylon thread, beeswax

Mkwa Giizis (Bear Moon)



engraved blown-glass (2023)
accompanied by beaded fringe
earrings made with size 11 delica
beads, gold fill thread guard,
nylon thread, beeswax

Ziisbaakwadoke Giizis
(Sugar Moon)



engraved blown-glass (2023)
accompanied by beaded fringe
earrings made with size 11 delica
beads, gold fill thread guard,
nylon thread, beeswax

Namebine Giizis
(Sucker Moon)



engraved blown-glass (2023)
accompanied by beaded fringe
earrings made with size 11 delica
beads, gold fill thread guard,
nylon thread, beeswax

Waawaaskone Giizis
(*Flower Moon*)



*engraved blown-glass (2023)
accompanied by beaded fringe
earrings made with size 11 delica
beads, gold fill thread guard,
nylon thread, beeswax*

O'demin Giizis
(Strawberry Moon)



engraved blown-glass (2023)
accompanied by beaded fringe
earrings made with size 11 delica
beads, gold fill thread guard,
nylon thread, beeswax

Mskomini Giizis
(Raspberry Moon)



engraved blown-glass (2023)
accompanied by beaded fringe
earrings made with size 11 delica
beads, gold fill thread guard,
nylon thread, beeswax

Mkade-Mskomini Giizis
(Blackberry Moon)



engraved blown-glass (2023)
accompanied by beaded fringe
earrings made with size 11 delica
beads, gold fill thread guard,
nylon thread, beeswax

Mandaamin Giizis
(Corn Moon)



engraved blown-glass (2023)
 accompanied by beaded fringe
 earrings made with size 11 delica
 beads, gold fill thread guard,
 nylon thread, beeswax

Bnaakwi Giizis
(Falling Leaves moon)



engraved blown-glass (2023)
accompanied by beaded fringe
earrings made with size 11 delica
beads, gold fill thread guard,
nylon thread, beeswax

Baashkaakodin Giizis
(Freezing Moon)



engraved blown-glass (2023)
accompanied by beaded fringe
earrings made with size 11 delica
beads, gold fill thread guard,
nylon thread, beeswax

Mnidoo Giizoonhs
(Little Spirit Moon)



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