



MICHAEL

BELMORE

AASHAGAN

BRIDGE



OJIBWE CULTURAL FOUNDATION



SINCE 1974

"Aashagan" an exhibit of the work of Michael Belmore
by the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation July 20, 2017-
October 20, 2017

Canada 



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
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Michael Belmore Aashagan-Bridge

It has taken some time for me to write about Michael Belmore's work, I have delayed and delayed, and wondered why. Earlier today listening to a conversation where something elegant was explained to death I understood. This is work beyond words, for a conversation that must be had, but no one is really sure how. Attempts march past heavy handed or ghostlike, about history, about the past. The things that endure and things feared faded away that remain like shadows in a rainstorm.

Elegant, menacing, poised, Belmore's works evoke a conversation and specifically touch on histories not kept or recounted in English. The feeling of belonging to an invisible past. How then to talk about these things seems to have been a prime thought in the artist's mind. Belmore utilizes the mathematical construct of binary code, a pure distillation of ones and zeros, a digital language of nothing and everything. To use this to form a physical manifestation of the word Aashagan, reinforces the ephemeral nature of understanding. The simplification of the things that are lost in translation, the subjects where translation is never attempted. And who decides. What does this sculpture say if it must read, where does the translation stop, is Aashagan sufficient in itself as a meaning, or must we reduce everything to its smallest component in an attempt to understand. To categorize and label and then simply state that we know?

In viewing these works one becomes a part of this conversation, which if it is to be had in a good way, should start how Belmore has started it, with the feeling.

Anong Migwans Beam

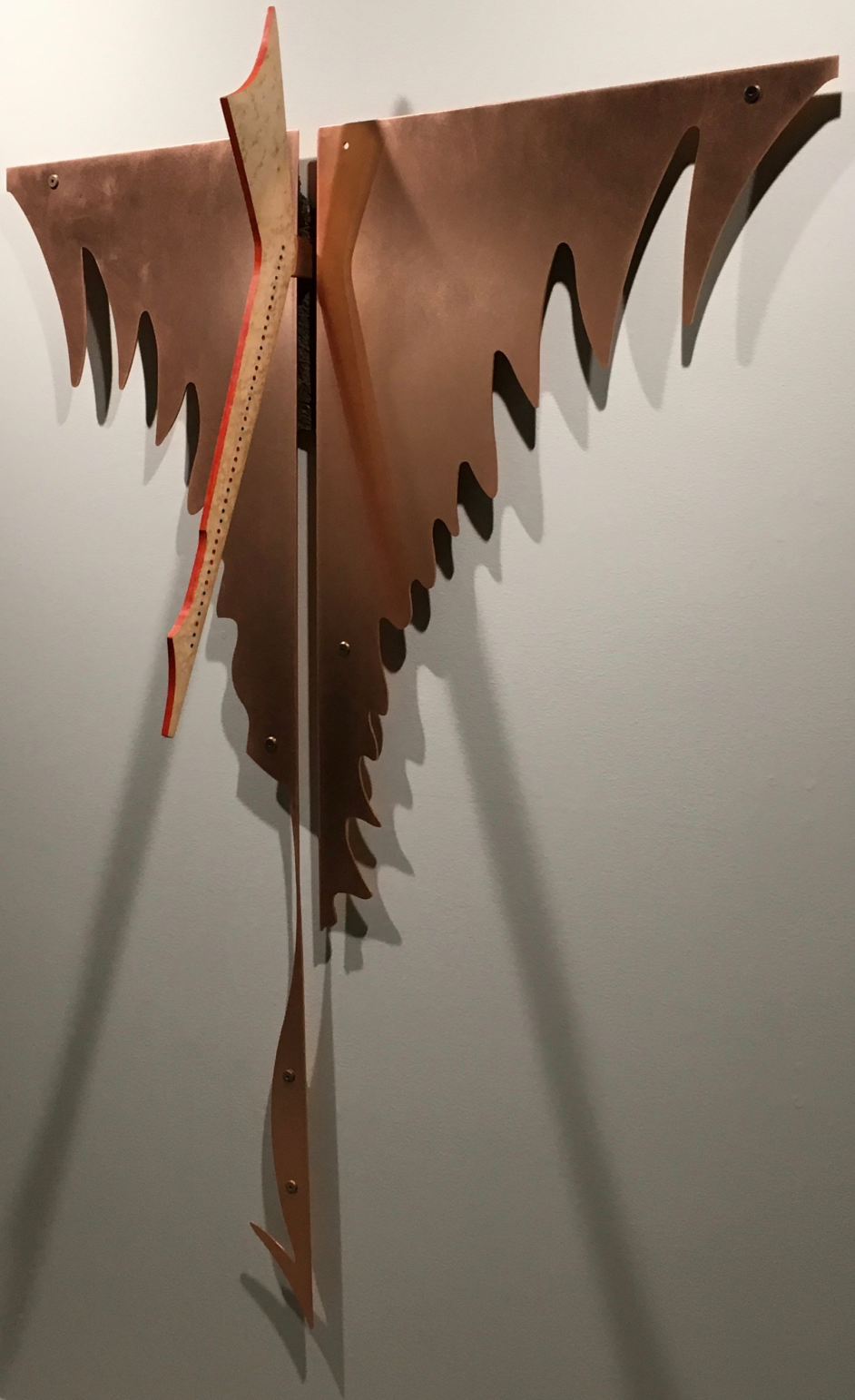
Curator

Ojibwe Cultural Foundation

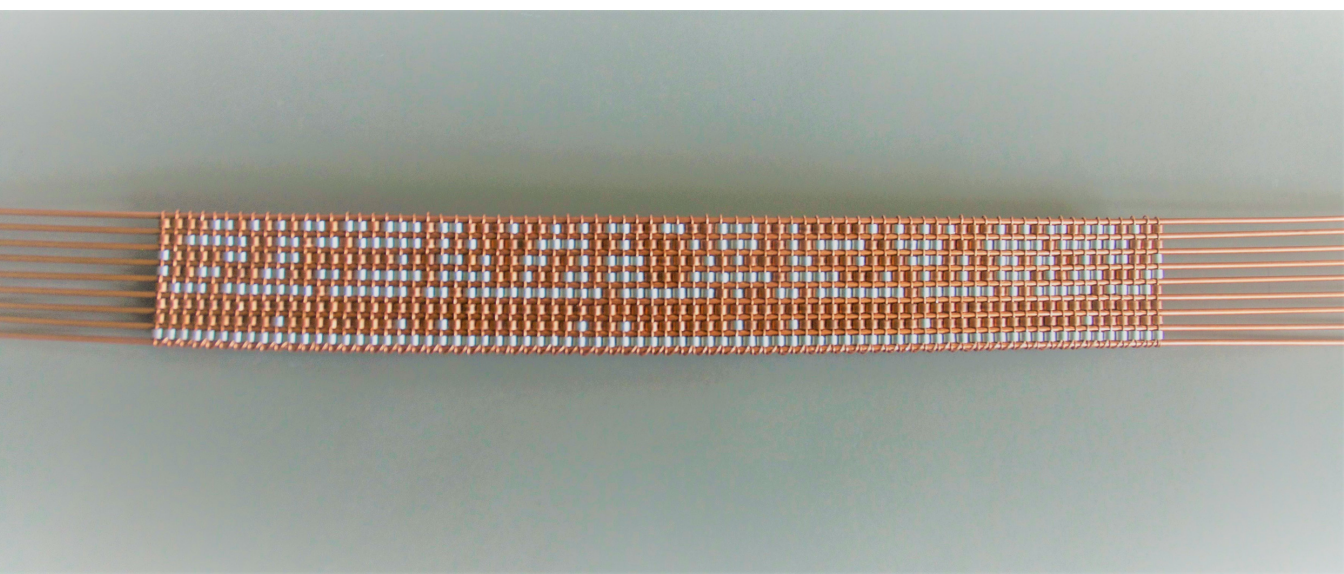
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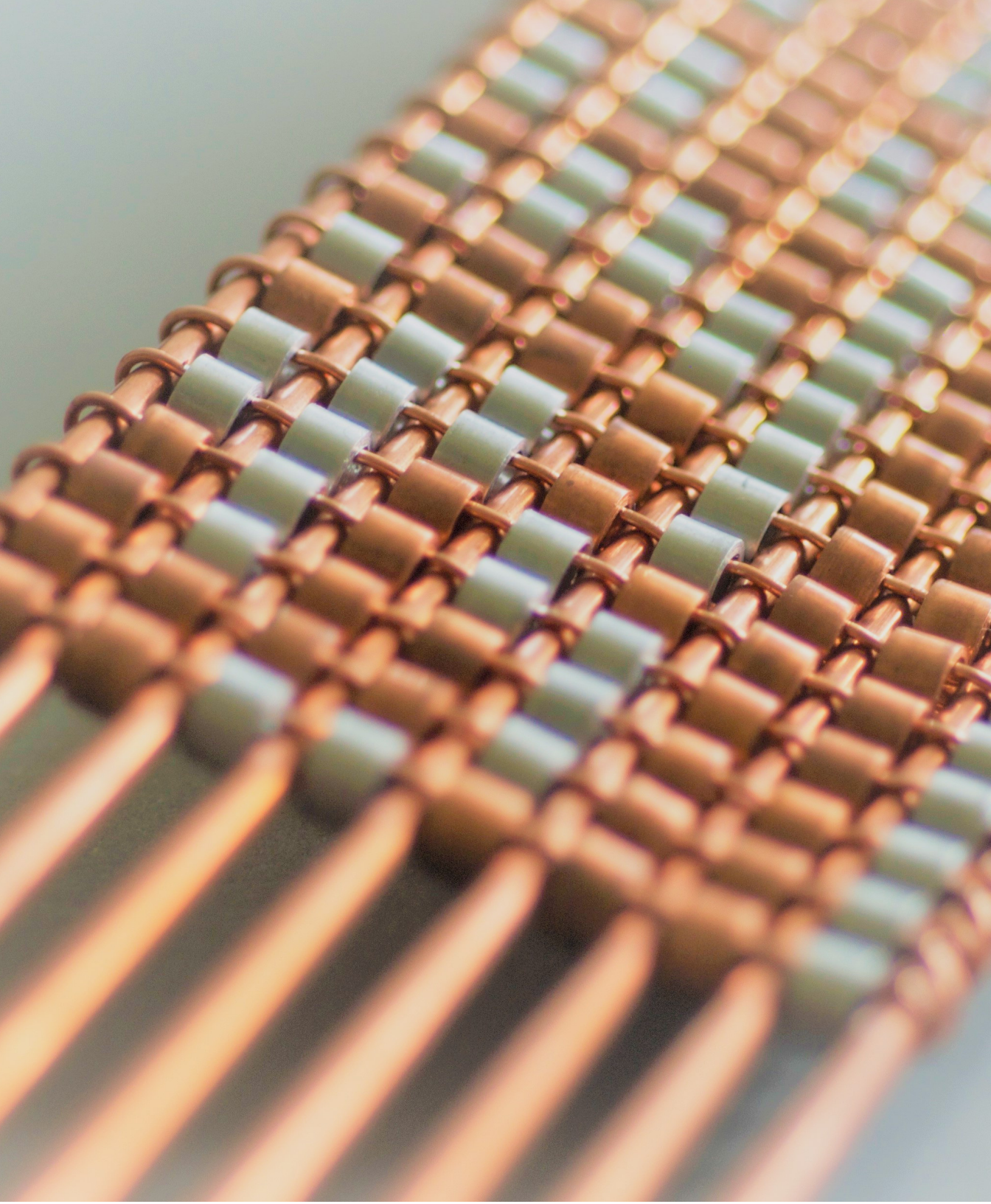
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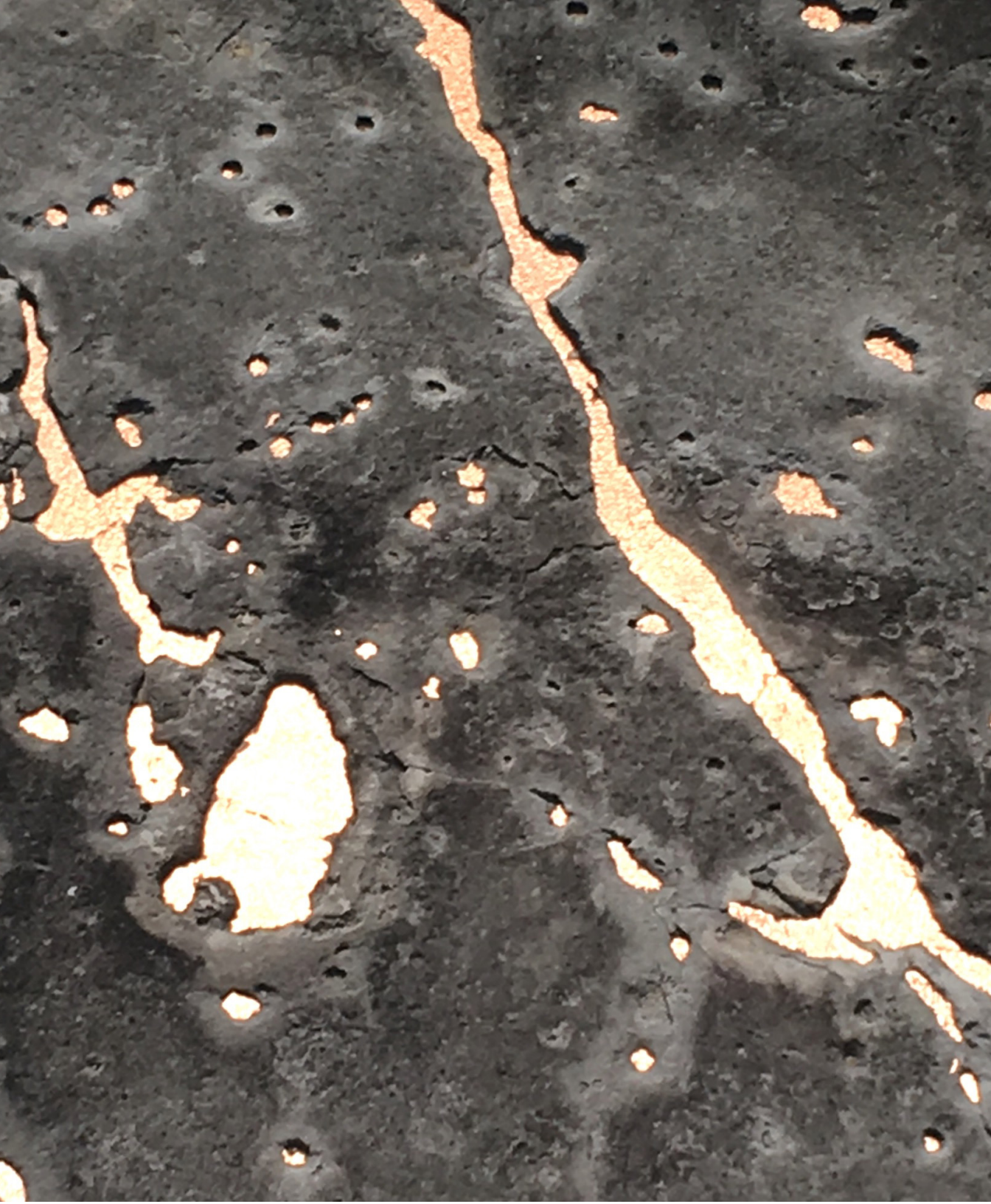
Michael Belmore is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and graduated with an A.O.C.A. in sculpture/installation from Ontario College of Art & Design in 1994. Belmore's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is represented in the permanent collections of various institutions and numerous private collections. His most recent exhibitions include fenda, Nogueira da Silva Museum, Braga, Portugal, Land, Art, Horizons, North American Native Museum, Zurich, Shapeshifting: Transformations in Native American Art at the Peabody Essex in Salem, MA, Close Encounters: The Next 500 Years, an international exhibition of contemporary indigenous art in Winnipeg, MB and HIDE: Skin as Material and Metaphor at the National Museum of the American Indian – George Gustav Heye Centre in New York.







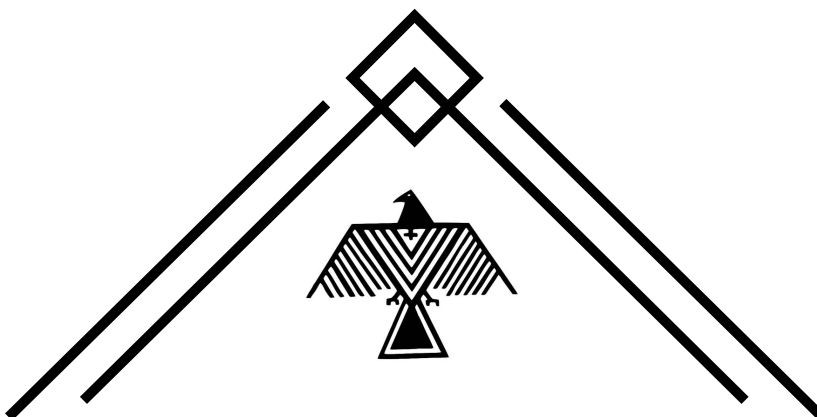






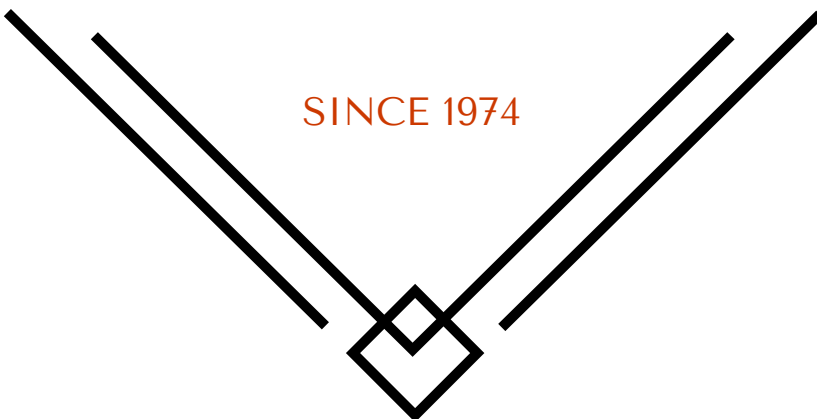






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