

MACAULAY & CO. FINE ART

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Luke Parnell

(B. 1971, Nisga'a-Haida)

Macaulay & Co. Fine Art is thrilled to present new works by Luke Parnell. Luke Parnell contrasts formal aesthetic elements with personal and contemporary concerns with a sculpture and painting practice rooted in traditional Northwest Coast design. His new installation, "Repeat the Chorus Three Times," includes three boxed drums; "Beat One: A Common Gift," "Beat Two: Only What You Take With You," and "Beat Three: Waiting for a call that says it's Mom." The carved boxed drums vary in a linear formation from smallest to large and are painted with unique traditional Northwest Coast Haida design elements. Each drum conveys different stories and experiences that reverberate how culture, trauma, and politics are passed down from generation to generation, creating a conundrum about how one reconciles with all simultaneously. A unifying element in "Repeat the Chorus Three Times" is present as each boxed drum carries one another through vibrations of readiness, soundings and stories.

Luke Parnell is Wilp Laxgiik Nisga'a from Gingolx on his mother's side and Haida from Massett on his Father's side. His training has involved a traditional apprenticeship with a Master Northwest Coast Indigenous carver, a BFA from OCAD, and an MAA from ECUAD. His artistic practice explores the relationship between Northwest Coast Indigenous oral histories and Northwest Coast Indigenous art, focusing on transformation narratives. With an understanding of visual language as an expression related to experience, Parnell's artwork contains traditional and contemporary symbols, where meaning is related to the works' materials, methods, forms, and context.

Parnell's work has been exhibited at the Varley Art Gallery of Markham (2021), Macaulay & Co. Fine Art (2020), the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (2018), the Biennial of Contemporary Native Art (2016), the National Gallery of Canada (2014), MacLaren Art Centre (2011), and more. He has been an artist-in-residence at the Banff Centre and the International Cervantino Festival. His solo 2020 show Indigenous History in Colour has travelled nationally from MKG 127 to the Bill Reid Art Gallery in Vancouver in 2021. The Art Gallery of Ontario acquired seven paintings from the exhibition. Luke Parnell has his first inaugural solo exhibition at Macaulay & Co. Fine Art this Summer, 2022.