

Bockley Gallery



Sky Hopinka: Fainting Spells

Opening Reception: Thursday, September 13, 9 to 10 pm

Exhibition: September 12 through October 20, 2018

Gallery Hours: Wednesday through Saturday, Noon to 5 pm

Bockley Gallery in collaboration with Walker Art Center will present the work of artist, filmmaker, and author Sky Hopinka. On Thursday, September 13 at 7 pm, five short films will be screened at the Walker Art Center's Cinema (free screening) followed by a discussion with the artist, assistant curator/archivist Ruth Hodgins, and Walker Reader managing editor Paul Schmelzer. Following the [Walker](#) event will be a reception at Bockley Gallery from 9 to 10 pm.

The exhibition at Bockley Gallery centers on Hopinka's moving image work *Fainting Spells* (2018), a three-channel video installation. Landscape, sound, human figures, text, and indigenous language create tender and tense structures in this work. *Fainting Spells* is an imagined myth for the Xawįska, or the Indian Pipe Plant - used by the Ho-Chunk to revive those who have fainted. Another work, *Situated at the East End of Devils Lake on Sect 25 THN. R6B on N. Kirks Pleasure Ground*, is one of a series of large textual images or "calligrams" in which Hopinka references shapes of Indigenous earthworks, pictographs, and glyphs. *Along the Edge of Encircling Lake*, a series of four works, is composed of handwritten texts translated from Hoočak stories, aligned with video stills.

Sky Hopinka (Ho-Chunk/Pechanga) was born and raised in Ferndale, Washington, and spent a number of years in Palm Springs and Riverside, California, and Portland, Oregon. In Portland, he studied and taught Chinuk Wawa, a language indigenous to the Lower Columbia River Basin. His video work centers around personal positions of Indigenous homeland and landscape, designs of language as containers of culture, and the play between the known and the unknowable. He received his BA from Portland State University in Liberal Arts and his MFA in Film, Video, Animation, and New Genres from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

His work has played at various festivals including ImagineNATIVE Media + Arts Festival, Images, Wavelengths, Ann Arbor Film Festival, Sundance, Antimatter, Chicago Underground Film Festival, FLEXfest, and Projections. His work was a part of the 2016 Wisconsin Triennial and the 2017 Whitney Biennial. He was awarded jury prizes at the Onion City Film Festival, the More with Less Award at the 2016 Images Festival, the Tom Berman Award for Most Promising Filmmaker at the 54th Ann Arbor Film Festival, the New Cinema Award at the Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival and the Mary L. Nohl Fund Fellowship for Individual Artists in the Emerging artist category for 2018.

For some time now, I've written down the names of people who have taught me things. It's far from complete; with every name I write, I try to remember the names I've forgotten or didn't see for their gift. Still, it's a small gesture toward keeping track of those flashes of uncertainty, and how someone added to a constellation of voiced and voiceless ways of being. That list serves as reminder that a difference between learning and knowing is little more than asking questions without the entitlement of an answer and honoring the vulnerability in saying and hearing "I don't know."

--Sky Hopinka

For further information or images contact [Todd Bockley](#).