

# TENDIGIT TECHNOLOGY

**Understanding Virtual & Material Realities** 

**CONFERENCE REPORT 2020** 





# THANK YOU

The CCF/FCMA would like to thank our many partners and sponsors who contributed to the conference, including the Saskatchewan Craft Council (SCC), the University of Saskatchewan Art Galleries and Collection, the Remai Modern, Hiebert's Hotshop, Sâkêwêwak First Nations Artists' Collective Inc., Vistek, and the City of Saskatoon.

Thank you also to everyone who attended the events, for sharing your positive energy and ideas, and helping to contribute to the growth and advancement of Canadian contemporary fine craft at large.

# INTRODUCTION

From Wednesday, March 4th to Sunday, March 8th, 2020, this valuable gathering of craft sector leaders from around the country focused on research, ideas, and brainstorming new approaches to the material and digital realities in craft. Attendees left feeling informed with an improved digital understanding, empowered to build their audience by increasing their reach, and inspired to advance maker culture for the urban, rural and online communities of craft. The conference was not about the tools and skills of digital craft creation – it focused on the digital atmosphere that we all live and work within, and how craft remains an integral part of modern society.

We were very grateful our event happened successfully without interruption before the official March pandemic lockdowns in the weeks immediately following our conference. In the light of the COVID impact, the content of the conference shifted from inspired information for a bright new future, to an immediate and necessary reality.



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- MARCH 4: HEIBERT'S HOTSHOP CREATIVE DAY
- MARCH 5 & 6
- CRAFT STAKEHOLDER SESSIONS
- CRAFT SOCIAL
- SONNABEND TOUR COLLECTION
- MARCH 7
- PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM
- ROBERT JEKYLL AWARDS CELEBRATION
- MARCH 8: CONFERENCE CONCLUSION
- SPEAKERS
- ITINERARY

# MARCH 4th

### HEIBERT'S HOTSHOP CREATIVE DAY

This year's conference began with a hands on Creative Day at the multi-faceted Hiebert's Hotshop and studio facility in Shields, providing early attendees with the opportunity to create and learn in a multitude of disciplines in a remarkable, must-see space.

Hieberts' Hot Shop was built in 2003 and includes areas for wood, metal, mechanics, sandblasting, as well as cold, warm, and hot glass working. Al, a former industrial arts teacher and Joan Hiebert, a nurse educator, built the complex as a retirement project. Ken Wilkinson, a potter for over forty years, joined the operation in 2016 as a pottery studio was added.

Megan Lanae and Brandon Vukelic joined Hiebert's in 2018 with Brandon establishing a flame-working studio. Brandon has been developing his skills in glass for the past three years. Megan's academic background in history and folklore informs her art. She works mainly in pottery, as well as some basket-weaving, painting, and glass.

Participants were able to select their top choices of classes from the following options:

Hot Glass
 Flameworking
 Instructor: Al & Joan Hiebert
 Instructor: Brandon Vukelic

Warm Glass
 Instructors: Bob & Elisabeth Miller

Copper Jewelry Instructor: Bettyann Desroches
 Beginner Basketry Instructor: Megan Lanae Wall
 Blacksmithing Instructor: Craig Campbell

Pottery Instructors: Ken Wilkinson and Murray Bentham

Carver Erin Lalonde was also on site offering a large wood carving demonstration throughout the day for all participants to enjoy! This experience was the perfect way to kick-off our conference - with hands on learning, networking together, building bonds and a unique opportunity to try something new, rekindling and expanding our passion for craft.



# MARCH 5th & 6th

The remainder of our conference was held at the stunning Remai Modern. The gorgeous light filled Riverview room was a joy to spend our time in, and the food was nothing short of delicious. Thanks to the University of Saskatchewan Art Galleries and Collection in partnership with the Remai Modern for making this possible!

### CRAFT STAKEHOLDER SESSIONS

CCF Members participated in two days of craft sector stakeholder strategy development. Thanks to all of our participants' input and insight, these were such productive sessions! Included were:

- A presentation on the current CCF/FCMA
   Digital Research Project funded by the
   Canada Council for the Arts, which led
   into round table discussions and working
   sessions guided by our project consultants,
   Forum Research Inc.
- Presentations from Craft Councils across the country and Affiliate member organizations about digital activity, ideas, projects, and inspirations.
- A presentation by Studio Magazine editor-inchief, Nehal El-Hadi, discussing current and future plans for Studio, Canada's national craft magazine.

 Our Movement Minutes, two 15 minute 'office-style' yoga breaks led by SCC's Lesley Sutherland, were popular additions to these afternoons. It was exactly what we needed mid-afternoon to refresh and refocus, and something to take home to incorporate into a healthy office based practice!













### **CRAFT SOCIAL**

## **@Saskatchewan Craft Council Gallery**

Thursday evening, delegates jumped on the Craft Bus to enjoy the Craft Social at the Saskatchewan Craft Council Gallery; an evening of exhibitions, music, and mingling with craft community members from across Canada.

Regina textile artist Melanie Monique Rose was in attendance to speak about her exhibition, The Flower People, followed by fantastic musical entertainment by CCF Board Member David Freeman, Brian Di Giuseppe and friends.

# **SONNABEND COLLECTION TOUR**

### @Remai Modern

Friday evening, attendees had the pleasure of exploring the iconic Sonnabend Collection with the guidance of a Remai Modern program guide. Developed through the vision of influential art dealer Ileana Sonnabend (1914-2007) her husband Michael Sonnabend (1900-2001), and their adopted son Antonio Homem, the Collection is among the most significant private holdings of modern and contemporary art in the world.

They anticipated and influenced developments in art including Pop, Minimalism, Conceptualism, Nouveau Réalisme, Arte Povera, Neo-Expressionism, Neo-Geo, Photo Conceptualism and beyond. Above all, they believed deeply in artists.

The Picasso ceramics collection and world's most comprehensive collection of Picasso linocuts are also housed at the Remai Modern, the new museum of modern and contemporary art in Saskatoon.

# **MARCH 7th**

### **PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM**

Our full day public symposium explored how society at large remains connected to, and inspired by, the realities of craft. Each of the following presentations can be found online in our #10DigitTech Recap video series on the CCF/FCMA Youtube Channel!

# CRAFTING IMMERSION: A BRIDGE FROM VIRTUAL TO PHYSICAL

Keynote speaker Raphael Van Lierop, Founder, CEO, and Creative Director at Hinterland Games and creator of The Long Dark, kicked off our day by presenting on the commonalities between physical craft and crafting a digital game experience, and how skills mastery is as powerful a game loop as it is "IRL". Raphael discussed building Hinterland and The Long Dark, and how that attracts some of the most thoughtful community of players from all over the world, united with their desire to... not freeze to death in Canada. Raphael explained designing for a sense of immersion in game environments, how the language of physical craft exists in the digital craft of making games, and how game development can feel like a discipline that borrows heavily from other crafts.

### **BUILDING DIGITAL COMMUNITIES**

Our next three speakers delved into their professional and personal experience in building digital communities. These researchers, podcasters and artists shared their stories about what works, what has not worked, and what they see as important steps toward what is next. Michael Peterson, Project Manager of Shared Spaces SK, discussed the University of Saskatchewan's Shared Spaces project,

exploring how augmented reality approaches can connect artists and communities throughout the province, and the process of shifting focus from the university galleries as a discrete physical space, to one that looks at how organizationally they can support galleries, artists, and organizations throughout the province and really leverage those connections in support of others.

Stephen Hurley, Architect and Chief Catalyst for voicEd Radio (Canada) with 35 years of experience in Canada's education systems, talked about establishing VoicEd Radio as a way of deepening and broadening education conversations across Canada, and how in doing so, built a digital community of people who are passionate about education.

Carole Epp, Canadian ceramicist, Curator, Researcher, and Writer, discussed the development of the Make & Do Canadian Clay Directory. She also addressed the struggles and barriers faced, exploring what it takes to build a resource like this online.

### **CRAFT AND THE DIGITAL TURN**

Guest Speakers Kathleen Morris, OCAD
University faculty in Material Art & Design, and
Hélène Day Fraser, Associate Dean of the Master
of Design Program at Emily Carr University
of Art + Design, discussed the beginnings of a
three year research project, "Thinking through
Craft and the Digital Turn". Part of a nationwide
research team made up of university and college
representatives from Emily Carr University of
Art + Design; Alberta University of the Arts;
OCAD University; Sheridan College and NSCAD
University, Morris and Day Fraser examined the
ways in which digital technologies intersect with
traditional hand fabrication processes.

### DIGITAL FLUENCE AND INFLUENCE

In this panel, artists and educators presented on their personal practices, where craft and digital practices are intertwined. (Moderated by Michael Peterson, Project Manager, Shared Spaces SK.)

- Jamie Bergin, Digital Media program and 3D Digital Design instructor in the Jewellery/ Metal Arts and Ceramics programs at the New Brunswick College of Craft and Design, discussed the process of increasing the accessibility and usefulness of 3D printing for students outside the Digital Media program. She explored the use of digital tools to help assist traditional craft processes, featuring a collaborative project between the NBCCD digital media and ceramics studio students.
- Nancy Price, textile artist and instructor, joined the conference virtually from her studio in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, to examine how our artifacts reflect the technological developments of the time, comparing coding and weaving in patterning language, and how translation over time and across media makes an impact. Nancy called into question what are the cultural intersections between craft and digital production, what is our relationship to tools, and how do the tools and materials determine the form?
- Jean-Sébastien Gauthier, Saskatchewan new media artist, discussed his experimental work and personal experience working within the cross-sectoral worlds of craft, design, sculpture, performance, alongside scientific exploration at the Canadian Light Source facility in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

### MINDFULNESS, CRAFT & HEALTH

In our final panel, three artists shared their insights on craft's intrinsic role in a healthy society and its ability - or inability - to help us connect and disconnect. (Moderated by Stephen Hurley Educator, VoicEd Radio.)

- David Freeman, Luthier and owner of Timeless Instruments, a private vocational school for luthiers, custom commission studio and tool/material supplier, discussed the pitfalls and benefits of the digital revolution as seen through the evolution of his students and the operation of his business. David invited listeners to make a conscious effort to ensure that as a culture we don't lose skills and abilities to make objects of our own imaginations from raw materials, by spending time developing your conscious awareness of how you are using the digital technology at your fingertips.
- Ruth Cuthand, matriarch of contemporary Indigenious beading and winner of the 2020 Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts, discussed the roots of two of her beadwork series; 'Reserving' and 'Surviving', her upcoming work on Covid-19. She also addressed the positive impact of bead hives as a meditative, community building practice.
- Clayton Windatt, advocate, artist and filmmaker, discussed how digital and physical worlds pull on us to go between them, the energy each of those places demand from us and how we think about our digital participation. Clayton explored issues of consent, access to information, regulatory attempts to keep up with digital advancement, and how we're not seeing either laws or social expectations representing the situations we're in.

### **OBJECT STORIES**

Throughout the symposium day delegates enjoyed Object Stories presentations; brief presentations sharing the narrative of an individual object.

- New media artist JS Gauthier shared Sample and Hold (2017), a digital render mixing 3D scans, CT scans and 3D synchrotron radiation microCT data.
- Michael Peterson and the University of Saskatchewan Shared Spaces project team shared The Last Canoe, created in 1973 by Isaiah Roberts, a Lac La Ronge band member and master canoe builder. The University of Saskatchewan filmed the making of this canoe for educational purposes, and their students have worked with structured light scanning, and have made a 3D model of the canoe that can be seen in augmented reality. This piece will be deaccessioned to return to the Lac La Ronge community, and the scanning technology opens up the exciting opportunity for the gallery to continue to exhibit this important piece through AR technology. So many exciting possibilities for sharing craft virtually.
- In the afternoon, luthier David Freeman entertained by musically illustrating the story of sculpting sound on his beautifully crafted flat top, wedged mandolin.Renowned artist Ruth Cuthand ended the afternoon with a Beaded Hep C from Trading, her series of 12 images of viruses brought by the Europeans. The series examines both sides of the European trade that brought new items that revolutionized Native life, including the colourful glass beads that replaced the method of using porcupine quills, and the diseases that decimated many tribes.

# CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS: OPTIONAL INFORMATION SESSION

At the end of our symposium day, attendees had the valuable opportunity to meet one-on-one with two representatives from the Canada Council for the Arts to discuss funding opportunities and programs that are relevant to craft artists and organizations. Thank you to José Niaison and Emily Gregory for leading these sessions.





# ROBERT JEKYLL AWARD CELEBRATION

# **@UNIVERSITY OF**SASKATCHEWAN

The Robert Jekyll Awards for Leadership in Craft were presented at the University of Saskatchewan Kenderdine Galleries. While on campus, guests enjoyed access to the exhibition, Kenojuak Ashevak: Life and Legacy in College Gallery I, the inaugural venue to present this national touring exhibition. Refreshments and a touching award ceremony were held in College Gallery II.

This RJA recognizes distinguished contributors to the craft sector, who have dedicated significant time and energy to the movement and development of the contemporary Canadian craft sector. Recipients are chosen based on the impact they have had in advancing the respect for and recognition of the craft sector. This year, the jury selected two individual recipients of the award. These two members of the national craft network have made a significant impact on the sector's advancement.

The naming of our first laureate was a solemn moment, posthumously honouring the legacy of Dr. Sandra Alfoldy. Though she passed away just over one year ago, we continue to be touched by her work, her enthusiasm, her genuine love of life - and her passionate love of craft. Craft Nova Scotia's Executive Director, nominator Susan Hanrahan accepted the award on Sandra's behalf.

We were truly honoured to announce that this year's very special Craft Year 2020 edition of the Robert Jekyll Award for Leadership in Craft was awarded to Louise Lemieux Bérubé. A textile artist, weaver, innovator, instigator, and visionary in craft, her work as a maker, teacher, board member and so much more has had a direct impact on the advancement of her specific discipline, and the craft community at large, both in her home province of Quebec and beyond. Marc Douesenard spoke on behalf of the Conseil des Métiers d'art du Québec, who nominated Louise for this award.

A huge thank you to Jake Moore and the University of Saskatchewan art galleries for hosting the RJA celebration, and for all their contributions on the steering committee, and throughout the conference week.

# **MARCH 8th**

# **CCF/FCMA BOARD MEETING**

Concluding the formal events of the conference, our final day consisted of a CCF/FCMA
Board meeting, including a vital working session for members, affiliated members, and craft council executive directors.





# **Itinerary**March 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# **Pre-Conference Creative Day**

# WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:45 AM	Meet in Alt Hotel Lobby	
9:00 AM	Bus departs Saskatoon	
9:45 AM	Welcome & Light Refreshments	Hiebert's Hotshop
10:00 AM	Morning Creative Sessions	Shields, SK
12:30 PM	Lunch: Provided	
1:00 PM	Afternoon Creative Sessions	
2:30 AM	Break & Light Refreshments	
2:45 PM	Afternoon Creative Sessions Continued	
4:00 PM	Bus departs: return to Alt Hotel	
5:00 PM	Break	Alt Hotel, Saskatoon
6:00 PM	Craft Stakeholders Meet and Greet	Winston's English Pub and Grill Located in the historical Hotel Senator 243 21st St E, Saskatoon



# **Stakeholder Meetings: Forum & Consultation**

THURSDAY, MARCH 5—INVITE ONLY		
TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:30 AM	Registration	Remai Modern
9:00 AM	CCF/FCMA Welcome & National Update	Riverview Room
9:30 AM	Presentation: Digital Research Project	Riverview Room
	Forum Research	
10:45 AM	Break	
11:00 AM	Craft Stakeholder Focus Group	
12:00 AM	Lunch: Provided	
12:30 PM	Focus Group Continued - Breakout Sessions	Conference & Boardrooms
2:00 PM	Break	
2:15 PM	Movement Minute	
2:30 PM	Breakout Sessions	
3:30 PM	Group Q & A	
4:00 PM	Break or Dinner on your own	
6:00 PM	Craft Social Shuttle Departs	Alt Hotel Lobby
6:30 PM	Craft Social  Join us for an evening of exhibitions, music, brief presentations and mingling with craft community members from across Canada, featuring the music of David Freeman and Brian Di Giuseppe, and textile artist Melanie Monique Rose. Attendance is free and all are welcome.	Sask Craft Council Gallery 813 Broadway Avenue Saskatoon
8:00 PM & 8:30 PM	Craft Social Shuttle returns to Alt Hotel	



# **Stakeholder Meetings: Digital Community Development**

FRIDAY, MARCH 6—INVITE ONLY		
TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9:00 AM	Welcome & Warmup	Remai Modern
9:15 AM	Looking Forward - Research Practices	
9:30 AM	Three Minutes of Fame	Riverview Room
	Craft Councils and organizations from across Canada share rapid-fire presentations about digital activity, ideas, projects, and inspirations.	
10:45 AM	Break	
11:00 AM	Three Minutes of Fame continued	
12:00 PM	Lunch & Learn Session (Lunch provided)	
	Studio Magazine editor-in-chief, Nehal El-Hadi, will discuss current and future plans for Studio, Canada's national craft magazine.	
1:00 PM	Craft Stakeholder Breakout Sessions	Conference & Boardrooms
2:00 PM	Break	
2:15 PM	Movement Minute	
2:30 PM	Craft Stakeholder Sessions continued	
3:30 PM	Group Q & A	
4:00 PM	Break or Dinner on your own	
6:00 PM	Free Evening We recommend you spend this evening exploring the Remai Modern, open until 10. Remai tours offered at 6 and 8 pm.	Downtown Saskatoon



# **Public Symposium**

# SATURDAY, MARCH 7

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:30 AM	Registration	Remai Modern
9:00 AM	Opening Remarks & Welcome	Riverview Room
9:20 AM	<b>Keynote Speaker: Raphael van Liero</b> Founder/CEO & Creative Director, Hinterland Games	p
10:20 AM Object Story: Jean-Sébastien Gauthier, Artist		er, Artist
	Object Stories are brief presentations sharing the narrative of an individual object.	
10:30 AM	Break	
10:45 AM	Presentation: Building Digital Communities	
	Speakers share their experience as researchers, podcasters, and artists, describing their digital prand what makes them click.	
	Featuring:	
	Michael Peterson Project Manager, Shared Spaces SK Stephen Hurley Educator, VoicEd Radio	
	Carole Epp Artist, Curator, Researche	r, Writer
12:00 PM	Audience Q & A	
12:20 PM	Object Story: Michael Peterson Isaiah Robert's Canoe	
12:30 PM	Lunch: Provided	
1:30 PM	Presentation: Craft and the Digital To	ırn
	Guest Speakers:	
	Kathleen Morris OCAD faculty memb	er
	<b>Hélène Day Fraser</b> Emily Carr Univers	sity faculty member



# SATURDAY, MARCH 7

TIME	EVENT
2:00 PM	Panel One: Digital Fluence and Influence
	Artists and educators share their work, where craft and digital practices are intertwined.
	Moderator: <b>Michael Peterson</b> Project Manager, Shared Spaces SK
	Jamie Bergin NBCCD Digital Media Instructor
	Nancy Price Textile artist and Instructor
	Jean-Sebastien Gauthier Artist
2:50 AM	<b>Object Story: Ruth Cuthand, Artist</b> Beaded Hep C
3:00 PM	Break
3:10 PM	Object Story: David Freeman, Luthier & Founder of Timeless Instruments Flat Top Mandolin
3:20 PM	Panel Two: Mindfulness, Craft & Health
	Three artists share their insights on craft's intrinsic role in a healthy society and its ability - or inability - to help us connect and disconnect.
	Moderator: <b>Stephen Hurley</b> Educator, VoicEd Radio
	Panelists:
	David Freeman Luthier & Founder of Timeless Instruments
	Ruth Cuthand Artist, USask Artist-in-Residence
	Clayton Windatt Artist
4:20PM	Canada Council For the Arts: Optional Information Session
	Attendees will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with two representatives from the Canada Council for the Arts to discuss funding opportunities and programs that are relevant to craft artists and organizations.



# SATURDAY, MARCH 7

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
5:20 PM	Break	
6:00 PM	Shuttle departs Alt Hotel for travel to USask	Alt Hotel Lobby
6:30 PM	Robert Jekyll Awards Celebration	University of Saskatchewan
	Join us for an evening social and presentation of the Robert Jekyll Award.  While on campus, guests will enjoy access to the exhibition, Kenojuak Ashevak: Life and Legacy in College Gallery I at the University of Saskatchewan, the inaugural venue to present the national touring exhibition. Refreshments and award ceremony will be held in College Gallery II on the ground level.  Attendance is free and everyone is welcome!	College Art Gallery II Peter MacKinnon Building, Ground Level 107 Administration Place
8:00 PM & 8:30 PM	Shuttle returns to Alt Hotel	



SUNDAY, MARCH 8—INVITE ONLY		
TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9:00 AM	CCF/FCMA Board meeting - Invitational only	<u>Alt Hotel</u>
A working session for CCF/FCMA board members, affiliate members, and craft council executive directors.		Cyan Room
12:00 PM	Lunch	
1:00 PM	Checkout & Departure	

# WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA



O Instagram

f Facebook

<u>Twitter</u>

#10DigitTech

# | Speakers & Panelists



**Raphael van Lierop**Founder/CEO & Creative
Director at Hinterland

hinterlandgames.com



**Kathleen Morris**OCAD faculty member,
Material Art & Design:
Textiles

kathleen-morris.com



Jean-Sébastien Gauthier Artist jsgauthier.com



Nancy Price
Textile artist and Instructor
nancypricestudio.ca



Clayton Windatt
Artist
claytonwindatt.com



Ruth Cuthand
Artist
ruthcuthand.ca

# | Speakers & Panelists



Michael Peterson
Project Manager,
Shared Spaces SK

voidgallery.ca



**Carole Epp**Artist, Curator, Researcher, Writer

musingaboutmud.com



**Stephen Hurley**Architect and Chief Catalyst for voicEd Radio

voiced.ca



Jamie Bergin
Digital Media Instructor
New Brunswick College
of Craft & Design

nbccd.ca



**David Freeman**Luthier
Timeless Instruments
timelessinstruments.com



Hélène Day Fraser
Associate Dean, Master
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