



Splatsin Tsm7aksálm (Splatsin Teaching Centre) Society

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For Immediate Release

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Lead Artist Announced for Residential School Survivors Monument

Splatsin, Enderby, BC

The Residential School Survivors Planning Group at Splatsin is pleased to announce that through a Canada wide call for artists to create a monument to recognize and honor the Splatsin Survivors of Residential School Tania Willard has been selected as the lead Artist.

Tania brings extensive experience and skill to the project through collaborative projects such as her BUSH Gallery in Neskonlith, Secwepemcúl'ecw, through her vision of centering art as Indigenous resurgent act and her support of language revitalization in Secwépemc communities.

Tania's artistic and curatorial work include exhibitions at the Vancouver Art Gallery, the IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts, Santa Fe, Kamloops Art Gallery, and the Anchorage Museum in Alaska, among others.

She is the recipient of several awards including the Hnatyshyn Foundation's Award for Curatorial Excellence in Contemporary Art, the VIVA award from the Shadbolt Foundation. In 2022 she was named a Forge Project Fellow for her land-based, community-engaged artistic practice.

Currently she is an assistant professor in visual art at UBC Okanagan.

Tania Willard's land-based art practices activates connection to land, culture, family through her blood ties to both the Splatsin at Enderby and to the Neskonlith at Chase through her Father and Grandparents.

Artist Comment: "My keye7e (grandmother), Ethel Jones, was from Splatsín, she supported my graduation in high school and was proud of that, I hope she would be just as proud today. I believe through creative practices we can find our strength and plant the seeds for our future Secwepemc communities to be strong, to know themselves their language and culture and our land."

The Splatsin Tsm7aksálm Society began fundraising for a monument in 2021. Splatsin Survivors identified the desire for a monument to the Survivors and a planning group began meeting in May 2022 and hosted the first ever Survivors Gathering in September 2022. At that meeting Survivors identified several themes for a monument and site.

A meeting with the Survivors and Willard will be held soon to confirm ideas for the monument.

Splatsin Elder and Survivor Rosalind William believes that “When our young people are making a mark out in the larger world, it is important that part of their cornerstone is anchored at home.”



Tania Willard

Donations to this project can be made by e transfer to splatsinmonument@tsm7aksaltn.ca

About the Residential School Survivors Planning Group at Splatsin

In consultation with the Splatsin Residential School Survivors, the Planning Group provides leadership in activities related to the recognition, honoring and commemoration of Splatsin Survivors. The Group plans and leads the development of a monument and site. The Splatsin Tsm7aksaltn Society is hosting this project under the umbrella of their non-profit organization.

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