MINNESOTA
MUSEUM of
AMERICAN ART

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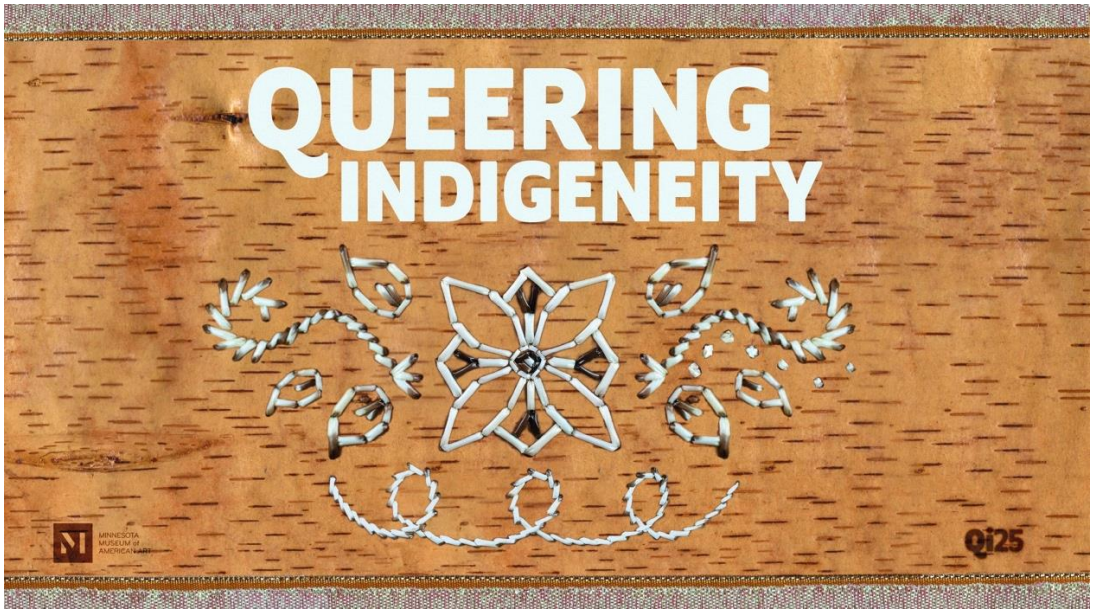

Queering Indigeneity at the M

Opening in the Nancy and John Lindahl Gallery
at the Minnesota Museum of American Art on Thursday, September 18, 2025

St. Paul, MN—July 1, 2025—The M (Minnesota Museum of American Art) is proud to announce *Queering Indigeneity,* a multi-year, multi-generational project that celebrates the vision and diversity of 2-Spirit, Native queer, gender-expansive artists in the Upper Midwest. In seeking out and amplifying voices of Indigenous artists and culture bearers, the M, guided by guest curator Penny Kagigebi (White Earth Ojibwe), presents to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous visitors a more comprehensive and complex story of this region's art and artists.

Beginning in 2023, the M's partnership with Kagigebi has emphasized opportunities for the intergenerational transfer of knowledge and art-making, allowing for community to be nurtured among artists and for sustaining mentorships to develop. The M's legacy of community-guided collaboration paved the way for a project like *Queering Indigeneity*, which responds to Kagigebi's leadership on radical commitment to Indigenous practices that support artists.

"There's a confluence of beautiful potential when 2-Spirit/Native queer and gender-expansive relatives fully embody their gifts; however, it's been disrupted by boarding school-infused–homophobia and

health disparities in our communities," Kagigebi says. "The *Queering Indigeneity* exhibition offers one pathway for 2-Spirit cultural reclamation. We come into this life with gifts and 2-Spirit medicine for healthy and vibrant communities while struggling to survive being here."

***Queering Indigeneity* featured artists** include Sharon Day, Ryan Young, Delia Touché, Awanigiizhik Bruce, Niibawi Ajijaak, Awanaabe Syverson, Zoe Allen, Naawakamigookwe Lera Hephner, Noah Polk, Madeline Treuer, Chewie Mason, Asin-Gwiiwizens, Sav Jonsa, Giiwedin, Nick Metcalf, and Penny Kagigebi.

ABOUT PENNY KAGIGEBI, CURATOR AS COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR

A Queer2-Spirit artist and White Earth Ojibwe direct descendant, Penny Kagigebi has committed decades to queer activism and cultural healing. In recent years, she's joined Community Collaboration efforts for Two-Spirit Cultural Reclamation and Radical Lateral Nurturing. Her mother's experience as a boarding school survivor deeply impacts her focus.

Kagigebi's creative practice and community teaching is focused on the endangered artforms of porcupine quillwork and birchbark basketry. In 2014, she learned quillwork and quillbox construction from renowned Leech Lake Ojibwe artist Mel Losh.

Kagigebi's artwork has been regularly exhibited in the Upper Midwest since 2018. She has received grants from Region 2 Arts Council Anishinaabe Arts Initiative, Lake Region Arts Council, and Minnesota State Arts Board, and has been awarded the 2022–24 Springboard for the Arts Rural Regenerator Fellowship, 2023 First Peoples Fund Cultural Capital Fellowship, and 2024–25 Emerging Curators Institute Fellowship.

Kagigebi currently serves as co-vice chair for Manoomin Arts Initiative in Mahnomen, MN.

EXHIBITION DATES
September 18, 2025–August 16, 2026

RELATED EVENTS
Opening Reception: October 11, 2025, 4:00–9:00 p.m. at the M.
Further details to be announced.
ACCESS INFORMATION

The Metro Green Line stops just a block from the M's front door (Central Station). Several bus lines also stop close by; visit metrotransit.org to plan your trip. If you are using public transit, a transportation service, or parking at a paid meter near the M, go to the M's main entrance at 350 Robert Street N entrance to access the museum.

The M does not have a designated parking lot. If you park in a ramp, the Jackson Street Ramp at 345 Jackson Street is closest. Ramp includes van accessible spaces and elevators on each floor, which can be accessed via a curb cut to the sidewalk and manual door. Guests should be aware of a steep incline within the ramp. From the parking ramp, take the elevator to skyway level 3A. Once you have entered the skyway on 3A, additional signage will direct you to the M.

Parking is available in the following locations:

- Paid meter parking on the streets surrounding the museum
- Jackson Street Ramp – enter off Jackson Street north of 4th Street
- Lowertown Parking Ramp – enter off Jackson Street, between 4th Street and Kellogg Boulevard
- First National Bank Ramp – enter on 5th Street near Minnesota Street
- Union Depot – enter off Kellogg Boulevard near Wacouta Street
- Kellogg Square – enter off Kellogg Boulevard near Robert Street
- Cray Plaza – enter off 5th Street past Jackson Street

For more guidance about how to get to the M, check out this video. To make arrangements or for further help, please call the M at (651) 797-2571 or email info@mmaa.org.

The M
Minnesota Museum of American Art • mmaa.org
350 Robert Street North • St. Paul, MN 55101

Minnesota Museum of American Art (the M), based in St. Paul, has evolved and adapted over the course of its history dating back to the 19th century. Recognizing that art is a tool for facilitating understanding across difference, the M is dedicated to amplifying the power of art and artists who represent diverse perspectives, identities, and lived experiences.

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