

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORWARD FACING

**LACIE BURNING, JADE NASOGALUAK CARPENTER, DAYNA
DANGER**

Curated by CASS GARDINER



**ON VIEW APRIL 21–JUNE 3, 2018 | Opening reception: Saturday, April 21st from
2–4 pm**

Gallery hours: Thursday–Sunday from 12–5 pm | Admission is free;

Building and gallery are fully accessible

Forward Facing is an exhibition that examines intersectionality within Indigenous identity through the photographic, video, craft, and installation practices of Dayna Danger, Lacie Burning, and Jade Nasogaluak Carpenter. Indigenous people from Turtle Island express and assert their identity in conversation with their cultural roots in a multitude of ways, and always in tandem with ever-looming colonialism.

Utilizing the device of the mask, *Forward Facing* provokes and questions how the face—or the absence of it—creates a powerful commentary on contemporary Indigenous culture. Carpenter utilizes a full body disguise of a bed sheet; Burning, a mask made of mirror and light; Danger recalls BDSM masks of leather and beads. Yet despite the vast difference of materiality and practice, *Forward Facing* illustrates how the masks function as a signifier of solidarity and safety for their respective communities.

Forward Facing is curated by Cass Gardiner and produced by Critical Distance: Centre for Curators (CDCC) in partnership with **Aboriginal Curatorial Collective / Collectif des commissaires autochtones (ACC/CCA)**. The exhibition will occupy CDCC's third floor gallery at Artscape Youngplace as well as the Billboard on Shaw and additional sites outside and within the building.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS and CURATORS

Dayna Danger is a 2Spirit, Métis (Anishinaabe/Polish) visual artist who utilizes photography, sculpture, performance, and video to question the line between empowerment and objectification by claiming space with her larger-than-life scale work. Danger is currently based in Tio'tia:ke-Moniang, and serves as a board member for the Aboriginal Curatorial Collective (ACC/CCA).

Lacie Burning is a Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) and Onondaga artist and curator who engages in photography, video, installation, and sculpture. Having come from a culturally and politically grounded upbringing, their work focuses on politics of Indigeneity and identity from a Haudenosaunee perspective. Burning is currently studying at Emily Carr University of Art + Design in Vancouver, BC.

Jade Nasogaluak Carpenter is an Inuvialuk artist and curator who uses art and humour as a coping mechanism to subtly address cultural displacement and to openly address mental illness. Carpenter is currently based in Calgary/Banff and holds the Indigenous Curatorial Research Practicum at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, and won the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Young Artist Prize in 2017.

Cass Gardiner is an American-Canadian and Anishinaabe Algonquin curator and non-fiction artist based in Brooklyn and Toronto. She is the co-founder of Matters Unsettled with Quizayra Gonzalez, a curatorial collective that challenges issues around culture, identity, and belonging for people of colour, and won the 2016 Emerging Curatorial Fellowship at the Center for Craft, Creativity & Design in North Carolina, USA. Gardiner holds an MFA in Documentary Media from Ryerson University, and a BA in Native American Cultural Studies and Documentary Media from the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at New York University.

Full bios for artists and curators can be found on the CDCC website.

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**CRITICAL
DISTANCE**
CENTRE FOR CURATORS

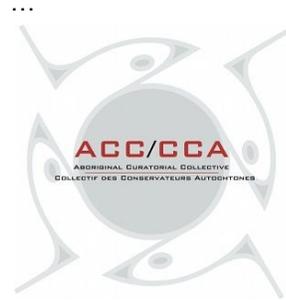
[180 Shaw Street, Suite 302](#) (on the 3rd Floor at Artscape Youngplace) | Toronto, Ontario | M6J 2W5 | Canada

Gallery hours: Thursday–Sunday 12–5 pm and by appointment

Office hours by appointment only

[Website](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Current Programs](#) / [Newsletter](#)

Part gallery and publisher, part professional association and network, Critical Distance Centre for Curators is a not-for-profit initiative and space devoted to the support and advancement of curatorial practice and inquiry in Toronto, Canada, and beyond. With a focus on critically engaged, collaborative, and cross-disciplinary practices, underrepresented artists and art forms, and community outreach and education in art and exhibition-making, Critical Distance is an open platform for diverse curatorial perspectives, and a forum for the exchange of ideas on curating and exhibition-making as ways to engage and inform audiences from all walks of life.



Aboriginal Curatorial Collective / Collectif des commissaires autochtones (ACC/CCA)

401 Richmond Street West, Suite 414 | Toronto, Ontario | M5V 3A8 | Canada

[Website](#) / [Facebook](#)

The ACC/CCA is a national service organization that brings together the Canadian Aboriginal and Native American curatorial, critical and institutional communities. The aim is to establish an important centre of excellence for our communities through opportunities, collaborations, networks, publications, advocacy, conferences, exhibitions and standards of excellence for our communities.



Facing Forward is a Featured Exhibition of the 2018 Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival.



Critical Distance and Aboriginal Curatorial Collective are grateful for the support of the Ontario Arts Council in making this exhibition possible.

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image: Lacie Burning, Untitled from Reflection Series (2017). Image courtesy of the artist.