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## **Riel+Berg selected as one of two winners of the Psychology Indigenous Art Project**

By Queen's Psychology  
Friday, February 21, 2020

The Department of Psychology is excited to announce that **Georgina Riel and Andy Berg (Riel+Berg)** have been selected as one of two winners of the Psychology Indigenous Art Project. Riel+Berg will prepare a large piece that will be installed in the lobby of the Humphrey/Craigne buildings in Fall 2020. Georgina (Waabishki Mukwa Kwe) is Ojibway from Batchewana First Nations. She has spearheaded many cultural initiatives and art installations, and is a well-known traditional knowledge keeper, cultural facilitator, educator and consultant. Andy Berg is a sculpture and installation artist who engages an Earth-centered ethic. She is a non-indigenous partner to Georgina on public art projects that address the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

The Psychology Indigenous Art Project is part of the Department of Psychology's response to further the objectives of the Calls to Action outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, as well as being a part of a greater initiative to increase the visibility of Indigenous art and culture and the recognition of Indigenous territory in spaces across the Queen's University campus. The aim of this project is to create a welcoming space for Indigenous peoples in the Department of Psychology, and to help promote awareness around historical and contemporary issues relevant to Indigenous peoples and psychology.

Riel+Berg's proposed mural will be titled Gdoo-Naagininaa: Our Dish. The piece will integrate Indigenous themes from the Anishnaabe and Haudenosaunee into a psychological environment. Created from textured ceramic tile, Riel+Berg describe the mural as a "living piece." The artists

note that the tactile quality of the mural, made with materials from the earth, will encourage viewers to interact with the art with all of their senses. It is the artists' hope that their mural will "offer a colourful and welcoming space of understanding, hopefulness and respect for diversity for the students, support staff, professors and visitors to the Queen's Psychology Department."

*Pictured above are the artists and four adjudication committee members (left-right): Eric Brousseau, Kate Harkness, Georgina Riel, Andy Berg, Lola Cuddy, Daniel Tassone. Absent adjudication committee members include Janice Hill, Wendy Phillips, and Al Doxtator. Photo by Janessa Shorrock*