



DE MONTIGNY

INDIGENOUS FASHION/PRODUCT DESIGN AND  
PUBLIC ART THAT CONNECTS CULTURE, THE  
NATURAL WORLD AND COMMUNITY

## REFLECTIONS FROM AN INDUSTRY TRAIL BLAZER

“My goal as an artist has been to challenge people’s perceptions and ideas of what ‘Indigenous art and design’ is, to build community and to bring awareness to the beautiful and holistic nature of Indigenous culture and worldview.”

Angela DeMontigny







**demontignyboutique...**

Sandton, Johannesburg

**South African Fashion Week Day 2**

**My Top 5 looks from Angela**

**DeMontigny**

**#SAFW #AW18**

**Images: Eunice Driver Photograph**

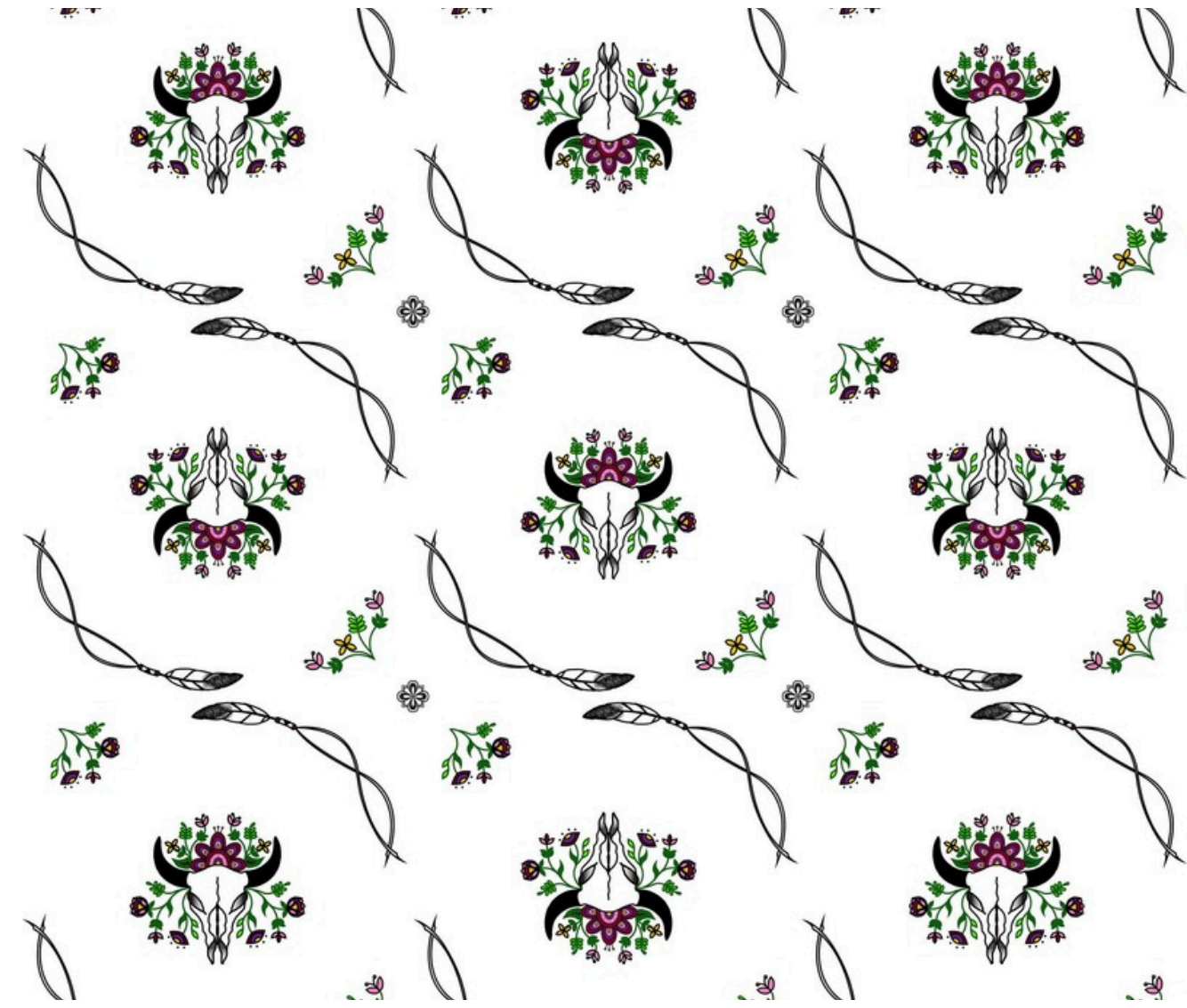


**#SAFWAW18 Day 2 - Angela DeMontigny**

[asseenbylloyd.blogspot.pe](http://asseenbylloyd.blogspot.pe)



**R E S P E C T**

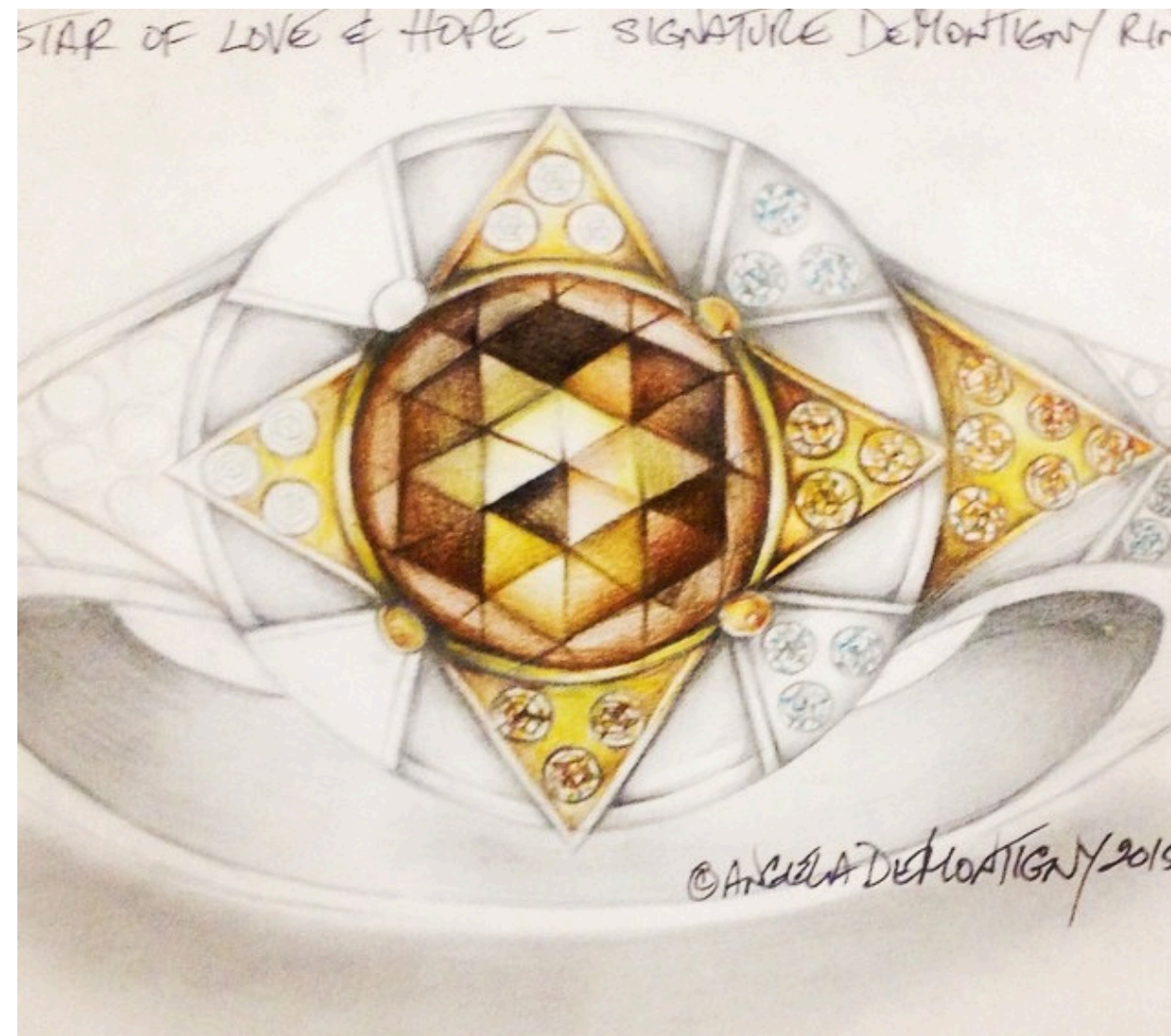








# Fine Jewelry Design

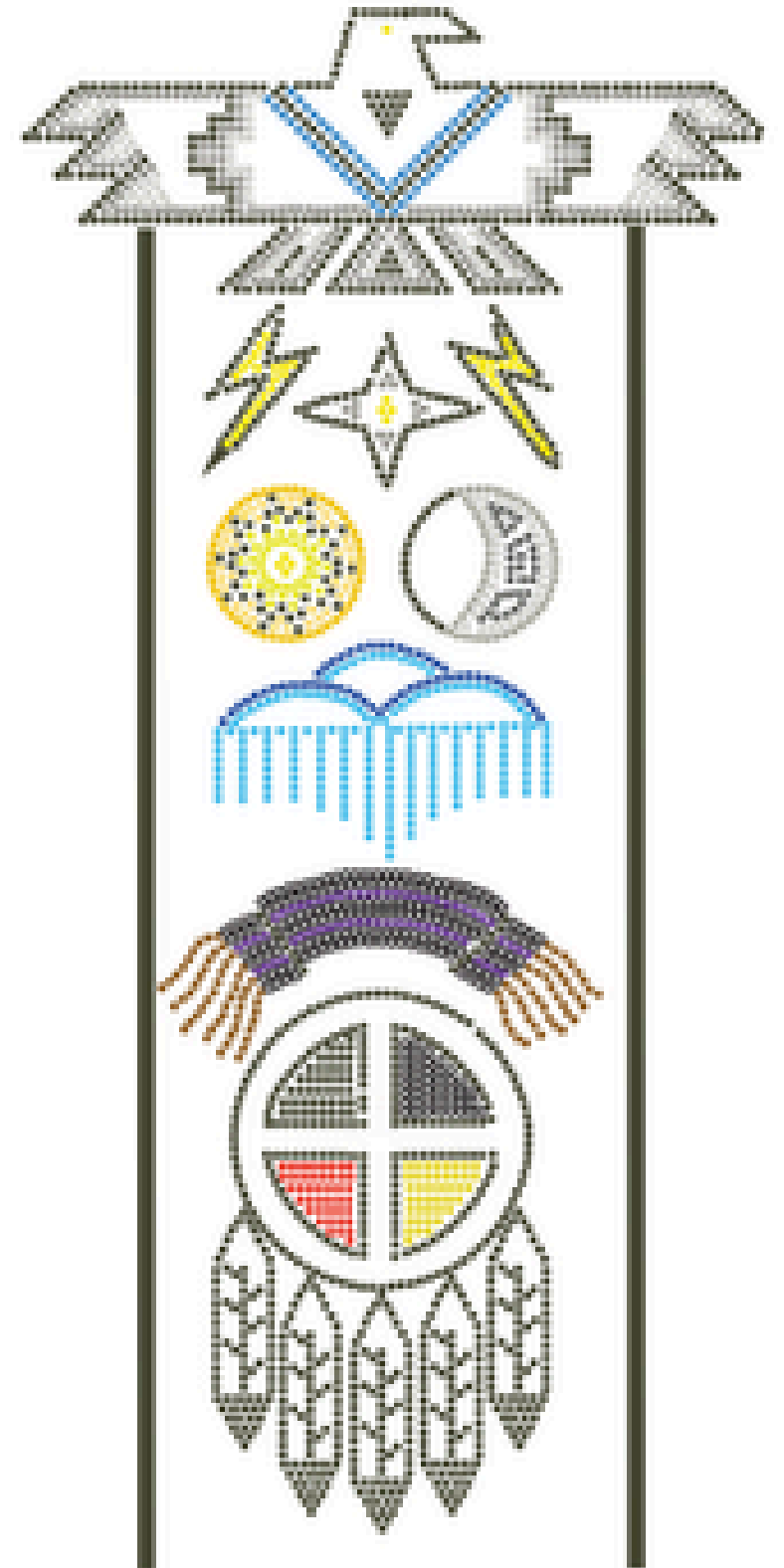
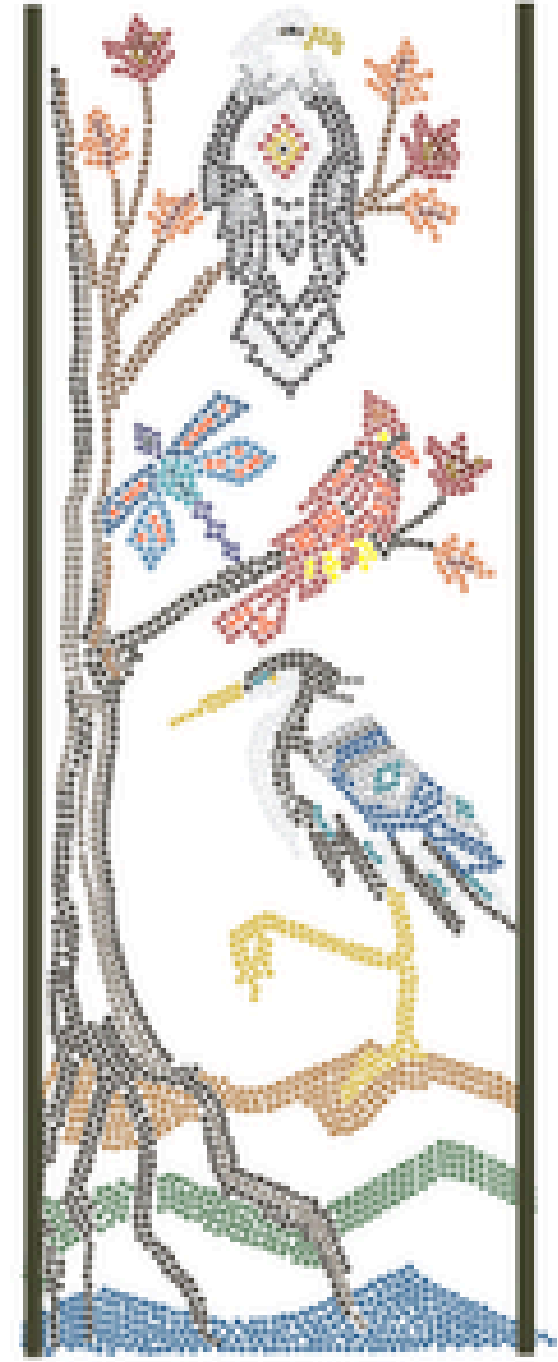
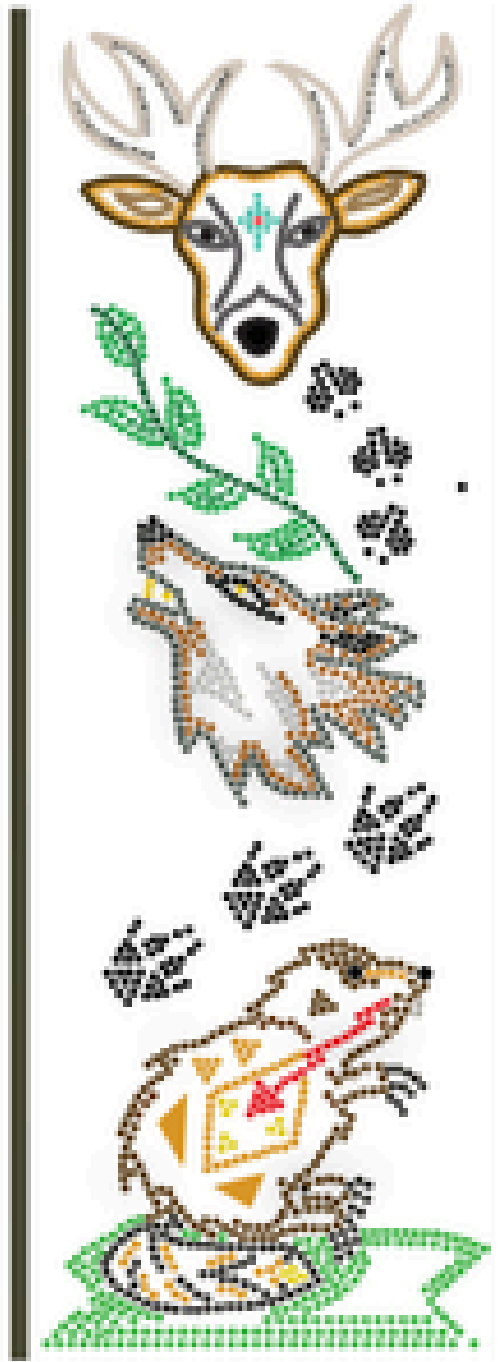






INDIGENOUS-MADE  
WOMEN-OWNED





## ARTIST STATEMENT

## ANGELA DEMONTIGNY ALL OUR RELATIONS

I was inspired to create these panels and artwork by the traditional teachings I've received through the years as well as the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address.

I hope to remind people when they visit the Hamilton waterfront, of the intrinsic and interdependent relationship we have with Mother Earth, the natural world: the water, the plants, trees and medicines, and the animal world. This also includes the Spirit World, the Sky Beings, the 4 Sacred Winds, our Grandfather the Sun, Grandmother Moon, and our Ancestors the Stars. I also wanted to acknowledge all the Indigenous Ancestors who have historically called this area home for millennia – from the Neutral, Anishnabek, and Huron nations and more recently, the Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas.

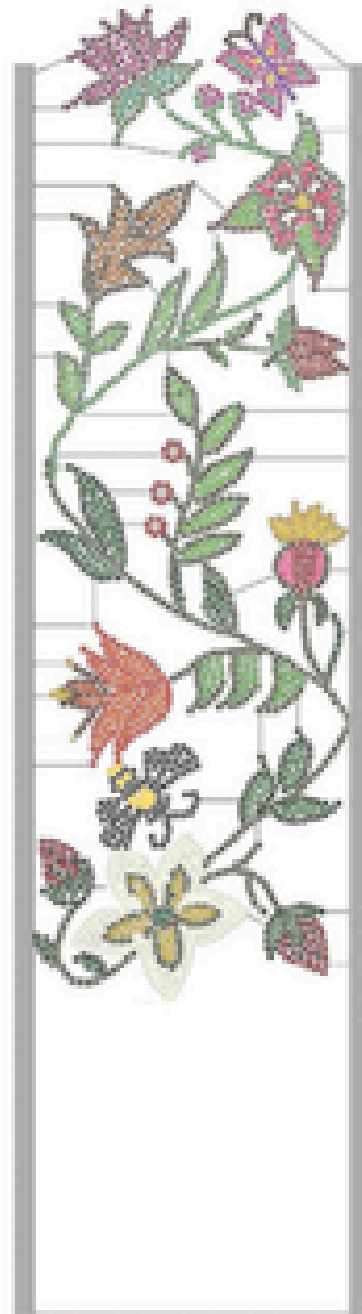
As fires currently burn in the Amazon and global warming melts the permafrost and icecaps in Alaska, the world is finally becoming aware of how interconnected we are and that what happens in one country, affects us all. Indigenous people around the globe have always known this and have been valiantly trying to protect what we have left.

Hamilton is located within the Niagara Escarpment – a recognized, world UNESCO Biosphere Reserve which includes a rich biodiversity of rivers, lakes, waterfalls and forests that support numerous species of birds, fish, reptiles and mammals. It has the oldest forest ecosystem and trees in eastern North America. I have chosen to represent just a few of these species in this artwork for the public to enjoy when visiting or living near the Hamilton waterfront.

We must acknowledge, give thanks and protect all our precious, natural resources so that we can ALL continue to live and thrive not only in this beautiful area but on this incredible planet which is our mother. Water is Life. "Nipi pimahtisuwin" (Cree). All My Relations "Niw\_Hik\_M\_Kanak" (Cree)

Angela DeMontigny (Cree/Métis)

## SYMBOLS AND STORIES



### PLANTS AND MEDICINES

The flora, which grow in our area not only provide us with sustenance, medicine and oxygen, they provide much needed healing and beauty.

The Haudenosaunee and other Indigenous nations have always given thanks for the plant life and medicines 'mashkiki' (Ojibwe) such as strawberries when they come in season in June. Day lilies and other flowers 'waabigwan' (Ojibwe) add to the lush greenery that grow around the Hamilton waterfront. We honour the plant people (as well as the bees and other insects which support their pollination) and Mother Earth for their bounty and the harvest we enjoy every summer and fall.

## ANGELA DEMONTIGNY ALL OUR RELATIONS



### WATER AND CREATURES THAT SWIM

Water 'nibi' (Ojibwe) is our most precious resource, as we cannot live without it. All plants and animals must have water to survive. Hamilton is home to over one hundred waterfalls and cascades, river systems, harbours (and of course Lake Ontario) which, in part has made it an internationally renowned tourist destination.

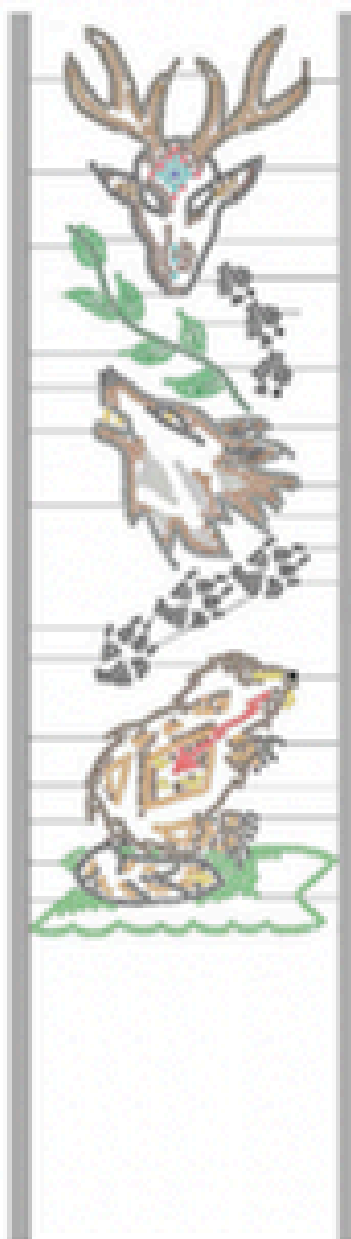
The Turtle 'A'nówara' (Mohawk) is a very important, sacred figure in Indigenous culture as it symbolizes Mother Earth. It represents her stoic ability to carry the heavy burden of man on her shell. Many species have 13 sections to their under side, it is believed to represent the cycle of the thirteen moons which are a celestial symbol of motherhood. The meaning of the Turtle signifies truth, good health and long life and is an important clan animal for the Haudenosaunee.

The ecological role of Frogs 'Otskwáre' (Mohawk) include food chain importance, pest control and as tadpoles, they eat algae, helping regulate blooms and reducing the chances of algal contamination. Symbolically, they are strongly connected to the water element and the process of healing and renewal, cleansing and transformation.

A variety of fish 'Kénton' (Mohawk) species including Salmon, Trout, Walleye and Smallmouth Bass can be found in Lake Ontario. For thousands of years prior to European contact, Indigenous peoples have used spearing, angling, and netting techniques to capture fish for their own subsistence and for use in intertribal trade. Salmon in particular, have been an important food source and symbol for Indigenous communities and represents fertility, adaptation, change, rebirth, moving, happiness, eternal life and femininity.

## SYMBOLS AND STORIES

### THE FOUR-LEGGEDS



This panel honours and identifies our four legged relations, the animals. I have represented 3 animals which have co-existed with humans in what is now Hamilton and southwestern Ontario. They have been chosen as important reminders as to their value within our culture and environment.

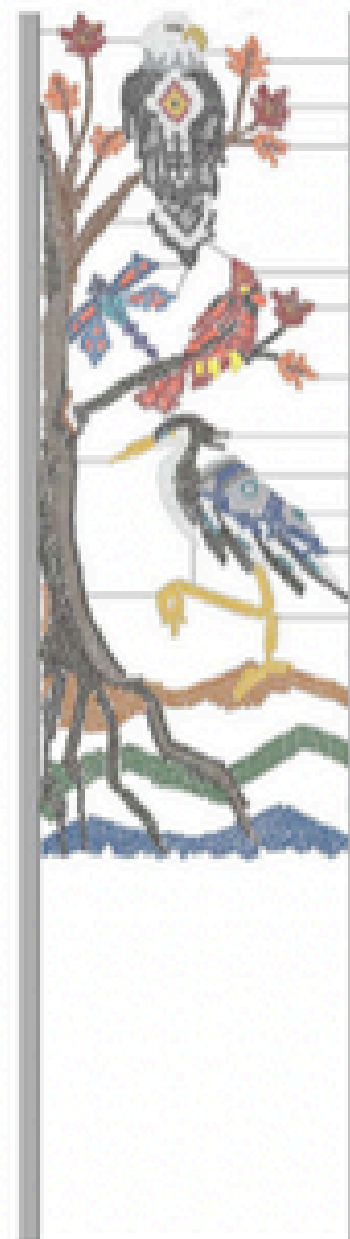
**The Deer** has been a vitally important animal to Indigenous people for sustenance and clothing for longer than anyone can remember. The Deer 'ohskennonton' (Mohawk) represents gentleness, unconditional love and kindness.

**The Beaver** 'tsyennito' (Mohawk) became the most sought after animal in Canadian history and was the catalyst that changed the relationship between Indigenous peoples and Europeans upon first contact in the 1500's. The fur trade started due to European demand for the luxurious pelts of the Beaver, which towards the end of the 19th century, almost wiped them out. The beaver represents wisdom in Indigenous culture and is known for its industrious and problem-solving nature.

**The Coyote**, Wiisagi-ma' iingan(ag) (Ojibwe), since migrating to Ontario from the west over 100 years ago, is newer to this area and has adapted well to urban environments, can now be found in both rural and urban settings. Coyote is well known in Indigenous culture as the 'Trickster' and there are many tales where he demonstrates the dangers of negative behaviors like greed, recklessness, and arrogance.

## ANGELA DEMONTIGNY ALL OUR RELATIONS

### MOTHER EARTH, TREES AND THE WINGED ONES



Trees are vital to us in so many ways. They store carbon dioxide, produce oxygen, stabilize the soil, provide a home to countless species of animals, birds, insects and other micro organisms. Some even produce medicine - such as the sap from the **Maple Tree** 'wáhta' (Mohawk) which I've chosen to depict. They also provide material for tools, furniture, shelter and fuel. Hamilton's waterfront is surrounded by lush forest which is home to the many winged creatures featured in this panel. Mother Earth 'shkaakaamikwe' (Ojibwe) is the foundation which supports and sustains all life and North America is called Turtle Island by Indigenous nations due in part to the Iroquois creation story (Sky Woman) and the shape of the continent.

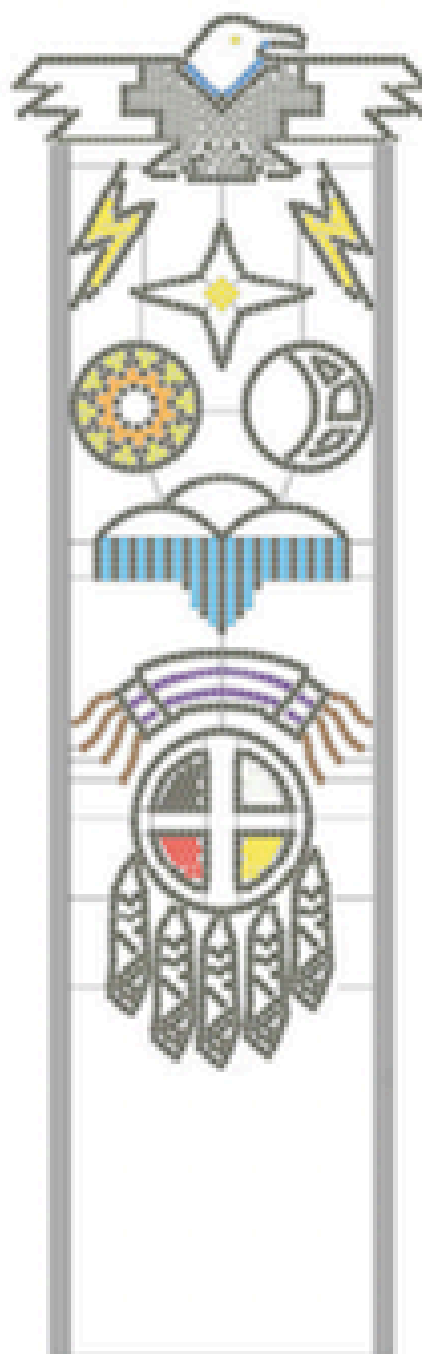
The most important bird to First Nations is the **Eagle** 'Ákwaks' (Mohawk), as it flies the highest which signifies freedom, the ability to see far ahead into the future, courage, wisdom and strength and its purpose is as the messenger to the Creator.

Next is the **Great Blue Heron** 'zhushagi' (Ojibwe), which brings messages of self-determination and self-reliance. They represent innate wisdom and grounding.

**The Red Cardinal** 'Tsinekwenhtáhrha' (Cayuga) is a year-round resident and a recognized symbol of Ontario. In Native Canadian/American culture it represents power, wealth, and enthusiasm as well as relationships, courtship and monogamy.

**Dragonflies** 'oboodashkwaanishinh' (Ojibwe) play an important part in our ecosystem by controlling the population of unwanted insects such as mosquitoes, biting flies and ants. In almost every part of the world, the Dragonfly symbolizes change, transformation, adaptability, and self-realization including illusion in Indigenous culture.

## SYMBOLS AND STORIES



### THE THUNDER BIRD, GRANDFATHER SUN, GRANDMOTHER MOON AND INDIGENOUS CULTURAL ELEMENTS

**The Thunderbeings** (Thunderbirds, Thunderers) 'Binesi' (Cree), 'Animikii' (Ojibwe), 'Ratiwe rahs' (Mohawk) are spirits in the form of great birds. Their wings bare thunder and lightning comes from their eyes. They reside in the West direction and are connected with the power of purification and rain. Thunderbirds are critically important not only in Indigenous culture and symbolism but to Mother Earth and All Our Relations as they bring the much needed rain for plant and animal life and lightning which helps Mother Earth maintain electrical balance. She is recharged by thunderstorms. There are many sacred ceremonies performed by numerous Indigenous nations that honour and give thanks to the Thunder Beings for bringing the rains and protection.

**The Morning Star** 'Gambeh Then' (Cree), 'Iawentenhawi: tha' (Mohawk) symbolizes hope and guidance. The Morning Star is the brightest star in the sky at dawn and is a representation of Indigenous ancestors. Many nations honor the morning star as a sign of courage and purity of spirit and honour it along with other celestial relatives Grandfather Sun 'Rohsken'rhakehte'ko: wa' (Mohawk) and Grandmother Moon 'tethi'sooha ahsontehnehkha karahkwa' (Mohawk) that are also integral to all life here on Mother Earth.

**The Rain Clouds** symbol is depicted as it carries the element of water which is one of the most vital amongst all elements as it dispurses the sustenance of life. The Rain Clouds 'nakiyaskwahikew' (Cree) signifies renewal, fertility, and change. It has always been important for Indigenous nations to give thanks and honour these elements and celestial beings in order for them to continue and remember their original instructions from the Creator.

**The Two Row Wampum Belt** 'Gusweita' (Mohawk) is one of the oldest treaty relationships between the Onkwehonweh (original people) of Turtle Island (North America) and European immigrants. The treaty was made in 1613 between the Dutch and the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) and outlines the respectful relationship that was originally intended in order for both peoples to co-exist in harmony in this territory which Hamilton is included. This historic belt documents that this was an 'equal' relationship and not a 'patriarchal' one. "The belt consists of two rows of purple wampum beads on a white background. Three rows of white beads symbolizing peace, friendship, and respect separate the two purple rows. The two purple rows symbolize two paths or two vessels travelling down the same river. One row symbolizes the Haudenosaunee people with their law and customs, while the other row symbolizes European laws and customs. As nations move together side-by-side on the River of Life, they are to avoid overlapping or interfering with one another."

**The Medicine Wheel** is important as a foundational symbol in relation to all the panels. Being a circle, it represents the interconnectivity of 'everything'. The 4 quadrants may represent the 4 races, 4 seasons, 4 cardinal directions, 4 stages of life as well as the aspects of one's being, including the connection with the natural world. The number 4 has great significance in Indigenous culture.

The teachings and meanings of the Medicine Wheel may vary slightly between Indigenous nations but it has been used throughout Turtle Island as a powerful symbol that influences how we view the world and how all things are connected. I have added 5 Eagle feathers to the bottom of this Medicine Wheel in order to acknowledge and honour the 5 Indigenous nations who have historically lived in this territory – The Neutral, Anishnabek, Huron, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas.

RENDERING

ANGELA DEMONTIGNY  
ALL OUR RELATIONS



Hamilton Waterfront Trust | City of Hamilton

West Harbour-James Street Plaza Public Art Project / Public Consultation / Stage 2

2 OF 10

## ARTISTS TEAM:

LEAD ARTIST: ANGELA DeMONTIGNY

GLASS ARTIST: PAUL RODRIGUE

STEEL FABRICATOR: LA FONTAINE IRONWERKS

PROJECT MGR: JEREMY FREIBURGER

## ALL OUR RELATIONS

INSTALLED: SEPTEMBER 2023

LOCATION: WEST HARBOUR, HAMILTON

MATERIALS: GLASS AND STEEL

INITIAL BUDGET: \$315,000.00

DIMENSIONS: 40' X 10'

RENDERING

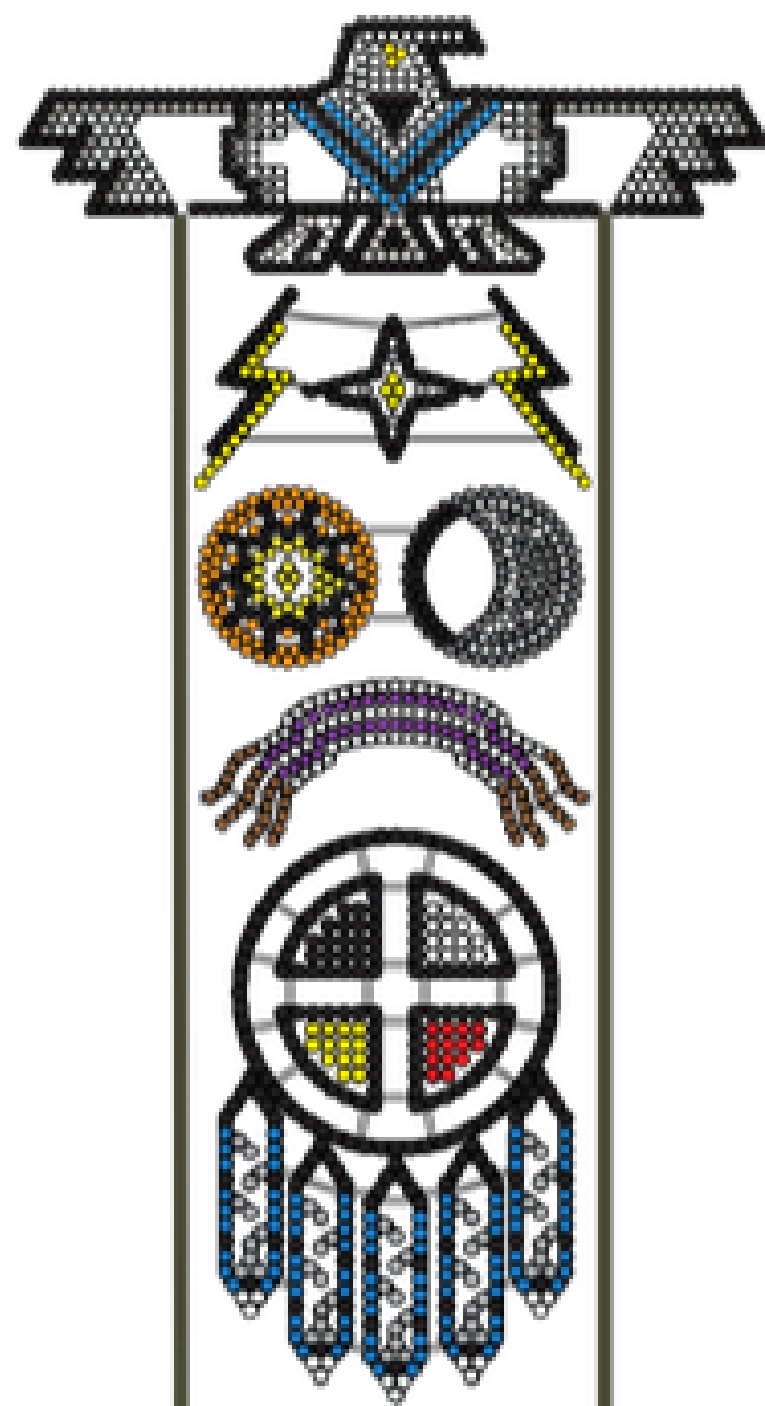
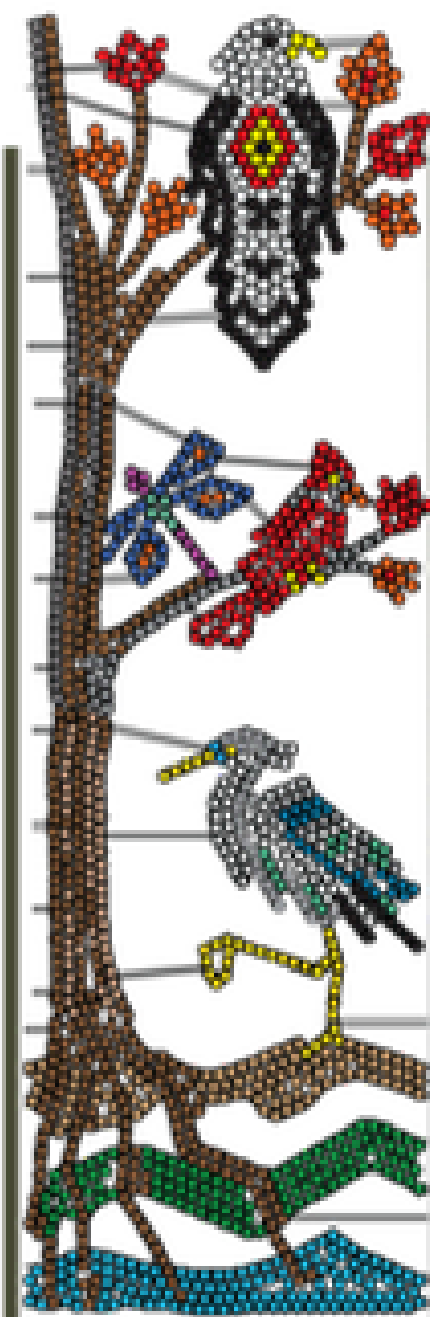
ANGELA DEMONTIGNY  
ALL OUR RELATIONS



Hamilton Waterfront Trust | City of Hamilton

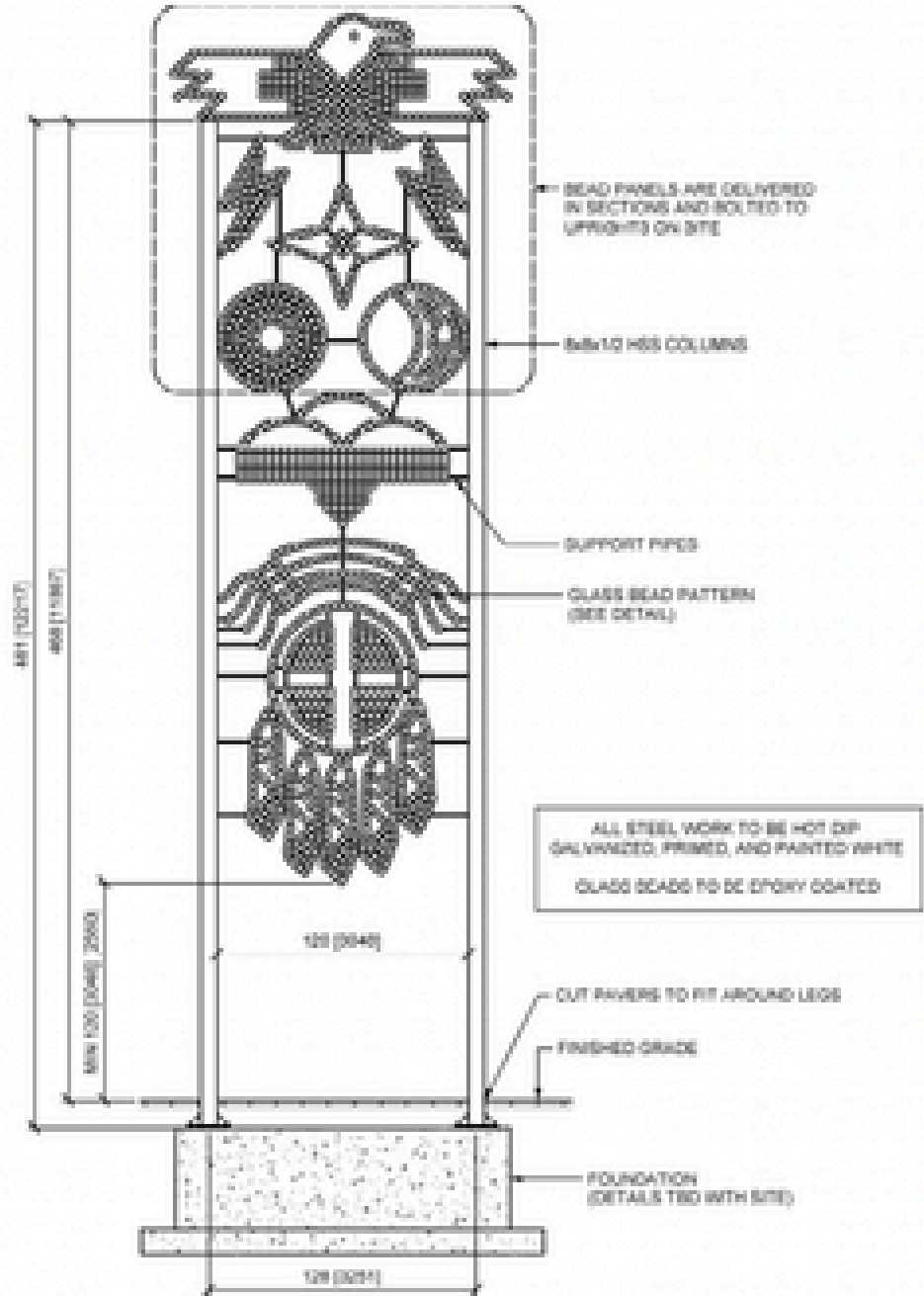
West Harbour-James Street Plaza Public Art Project / Public Consultation / Stage 2

5 OF 10

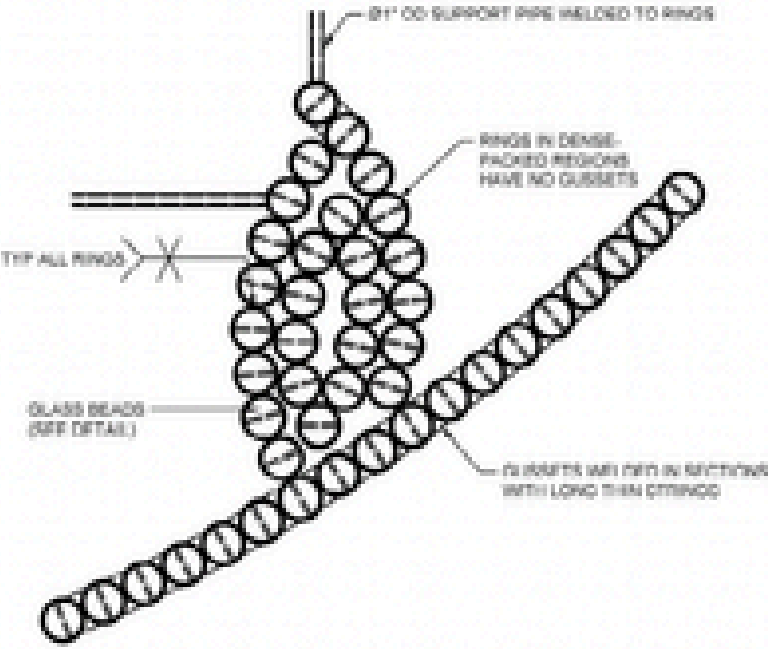


**ANGELA DEMONTIGNY  
ALL OUR RELATIONS**

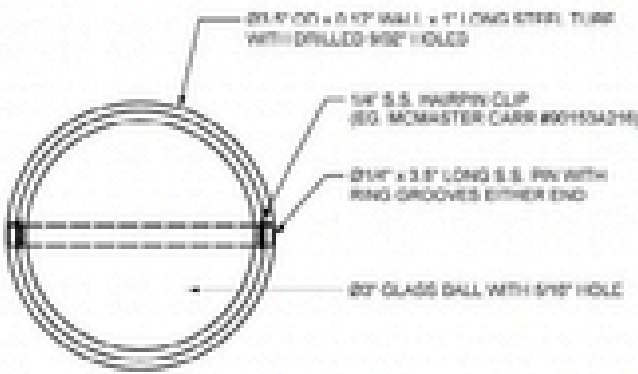
**DETAILS**



**TYPICAL PANEL**  
TOTAL 6 PANELS (PATTERN VARIED)  
SCALE = 1/2



**GLASS BEAD PATTERN DETAIL**  
TYPICAL ALL PANELS  
SCALE = 1/2



**GLASS BEAD DETAIL**  
APPROX 10,000 LOCATIONS  
GLASS COLOUR VARIES (SEE PANEL LAYOUT)  
SCALE = 1/2





News Local News

# Indigenous art installation to transform Hamilton's waterfront

By Alex Last - April 12, 2023, 8:03 pm

## ALL OUR RELATIONS

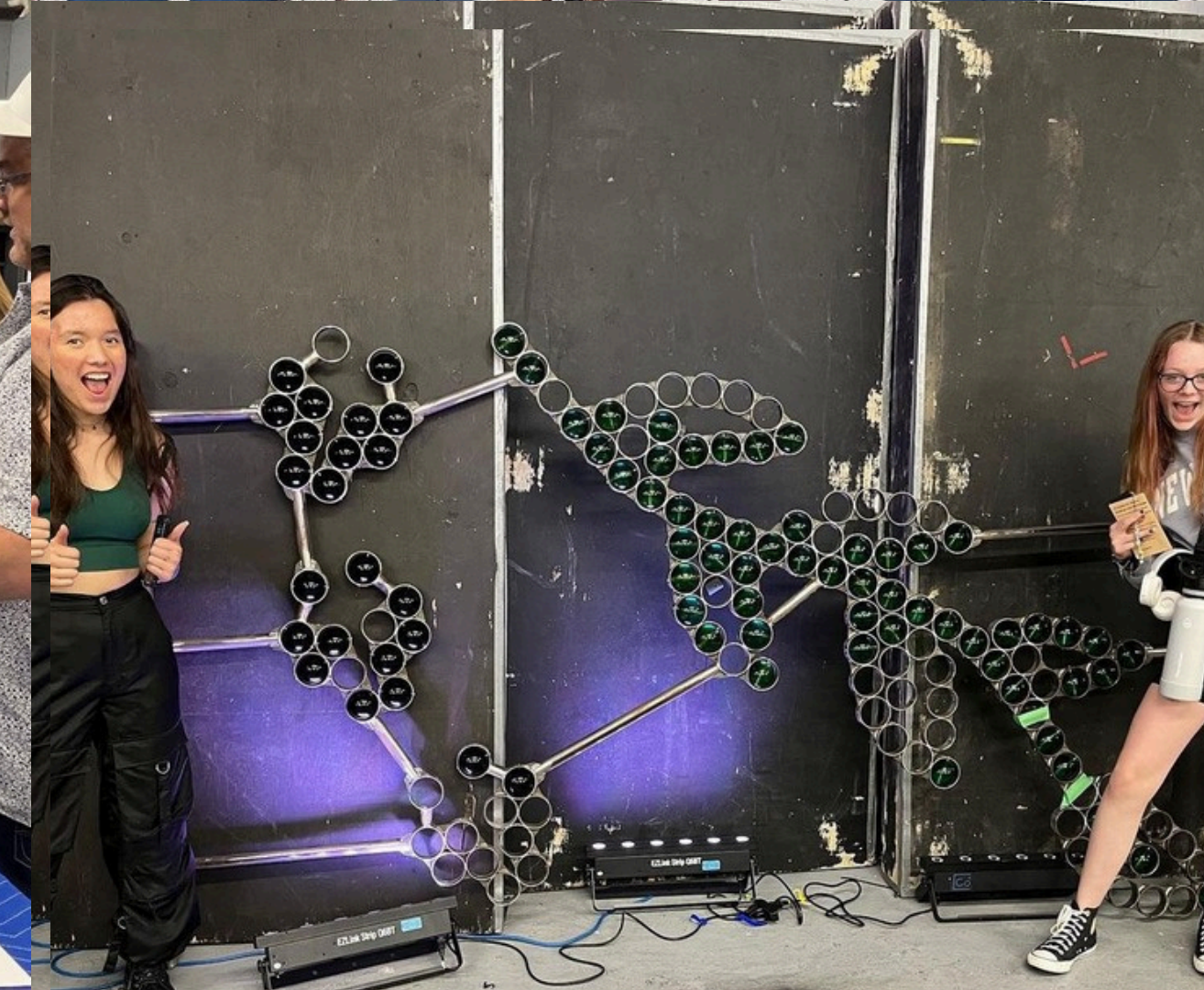
DeMontigny - Cobalt Connects - Rodrigue - LaFontaine IronWorks - EXP

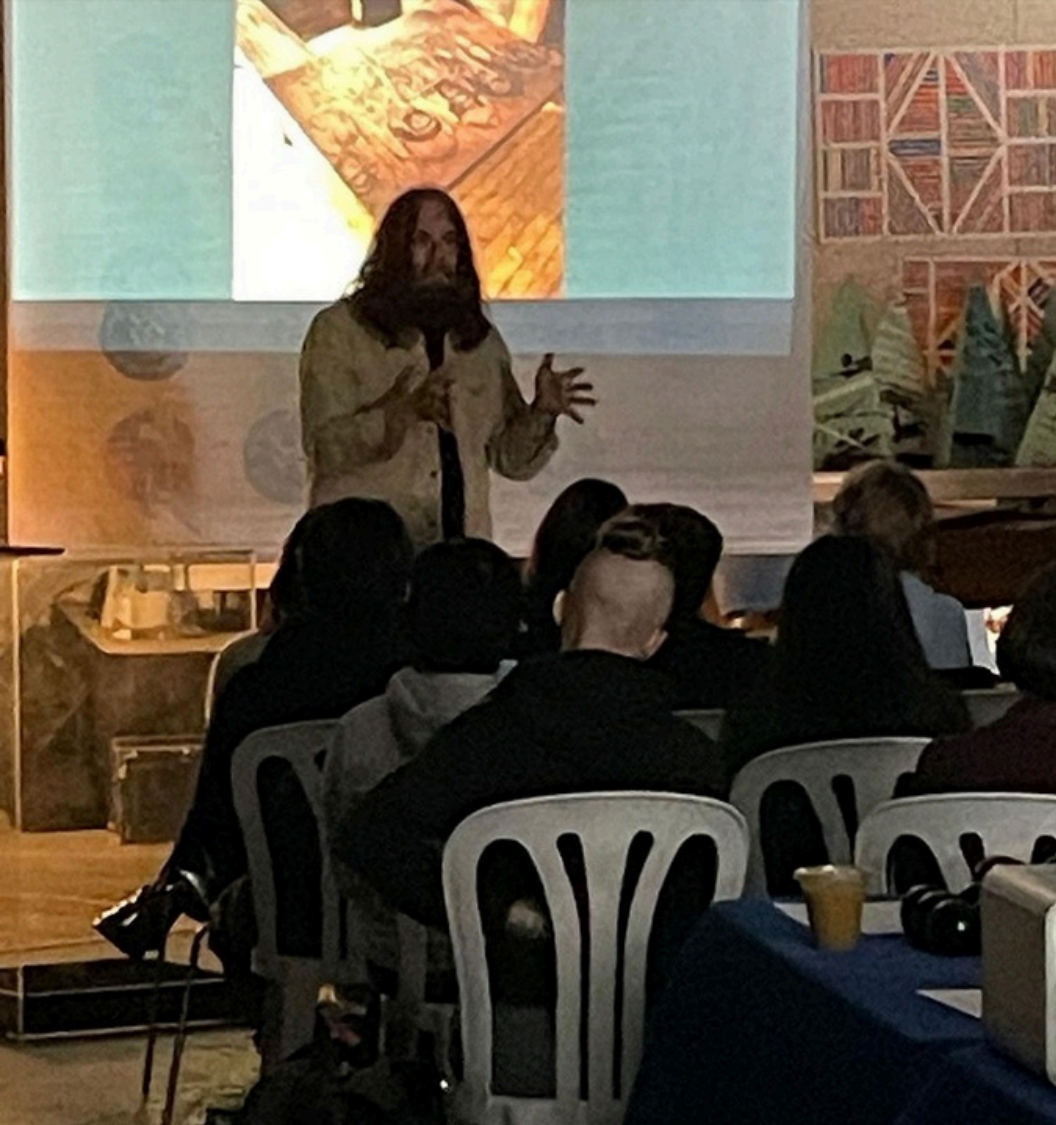


Hamilton's waterfront is currently undergoing a transformation and it includes what could be one of the largest public art projects the city has ever seen. Five glass panels over four stories high will be constructed near Pier 8.

The massive art project is called **All Our Relations**. The project is designed by Indigenous artist, Angela Demontigny. She says, "It consists of acknowledging the four legs, the animals, the birds, the trees, the plants, the water, the fish, and the aquatic life."







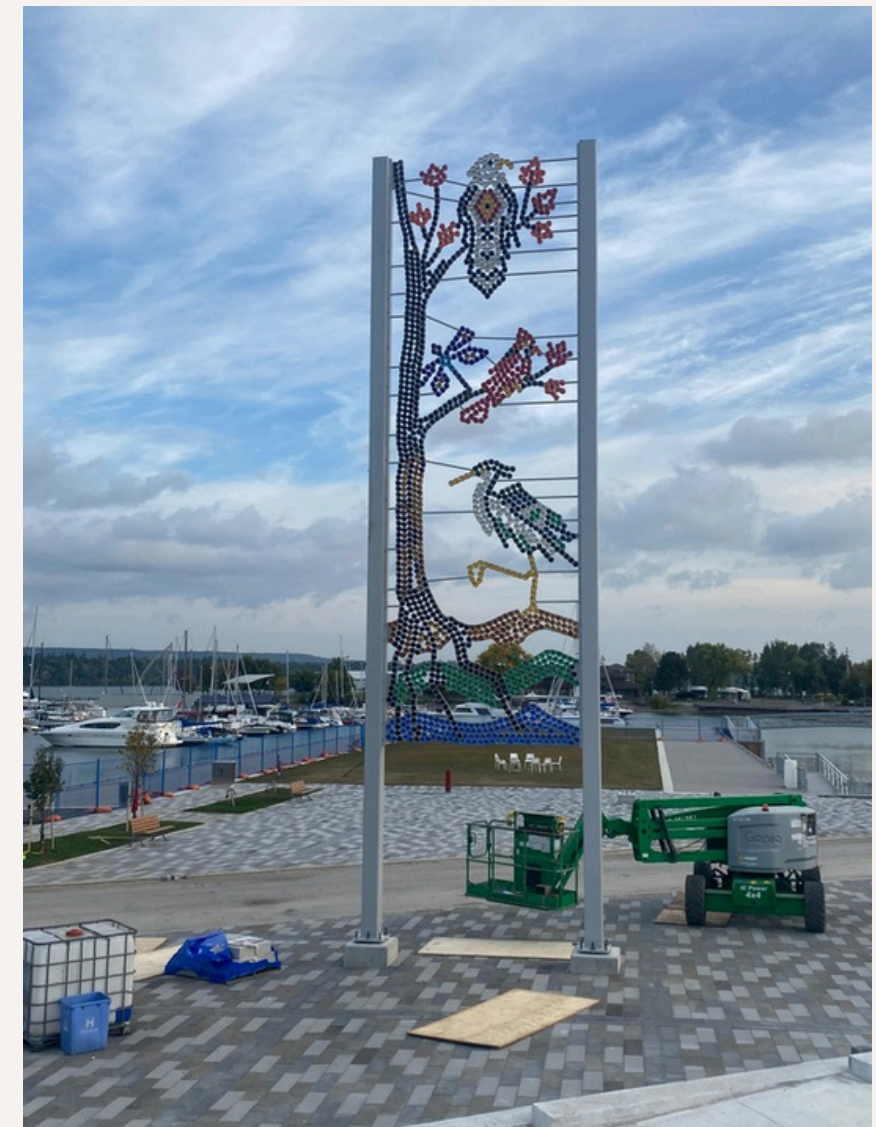


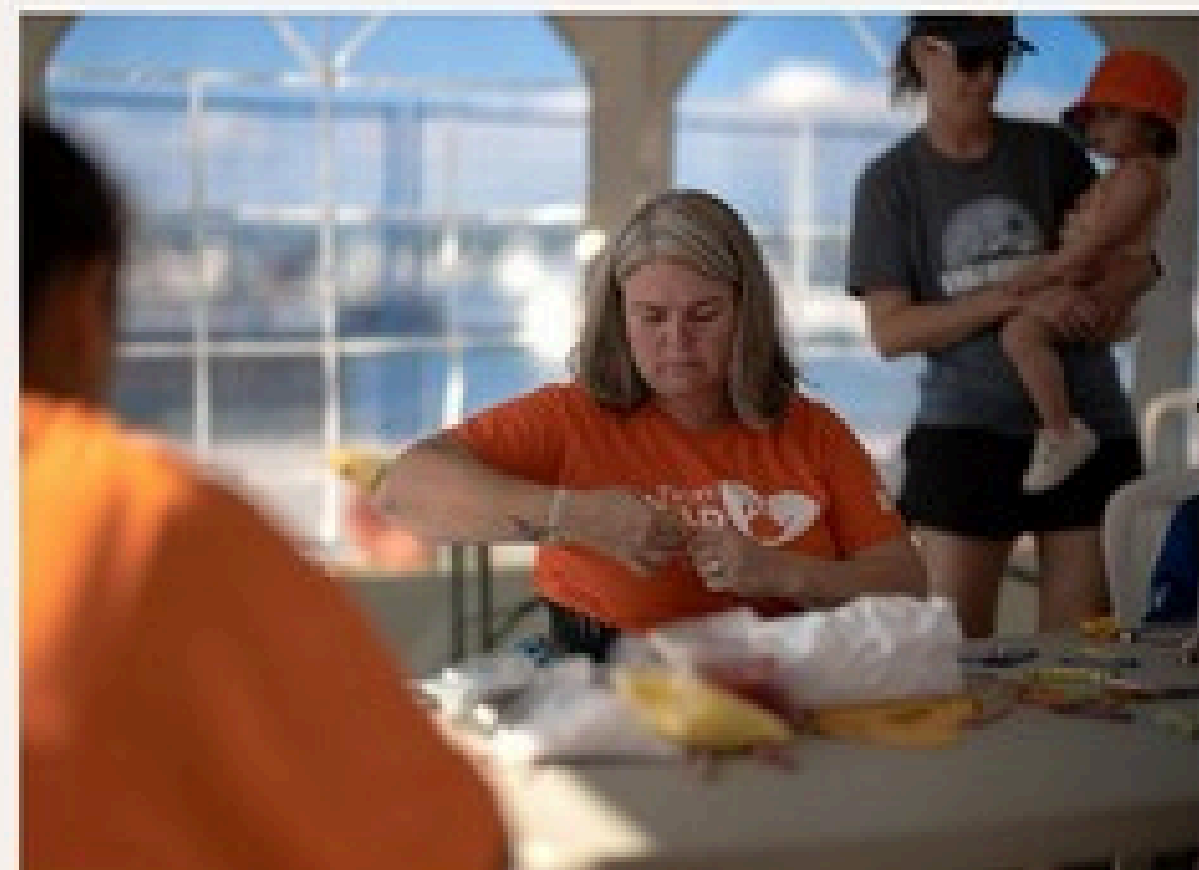
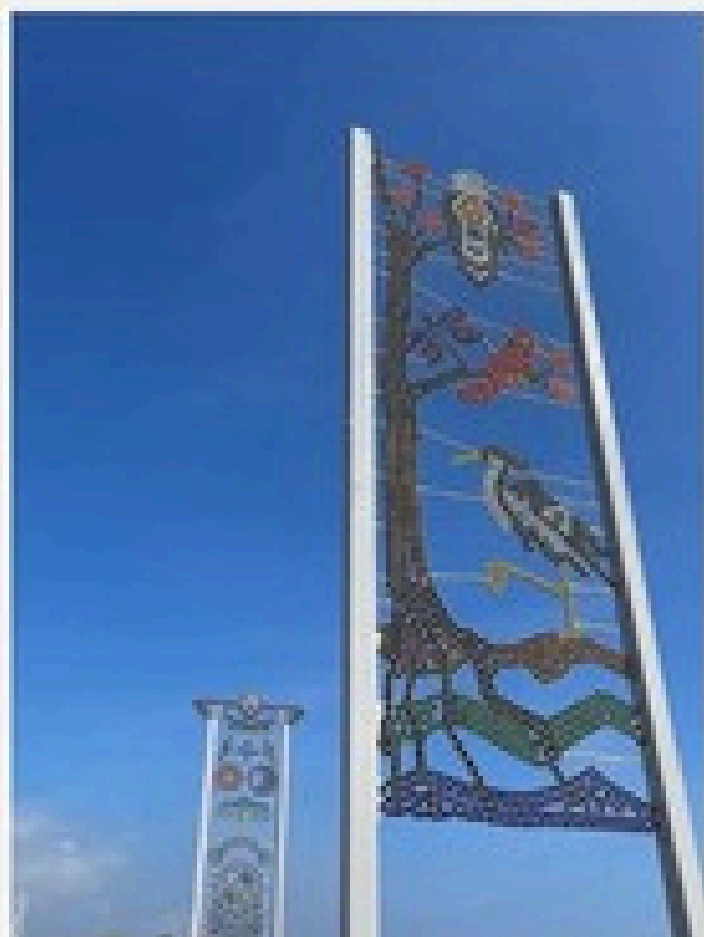
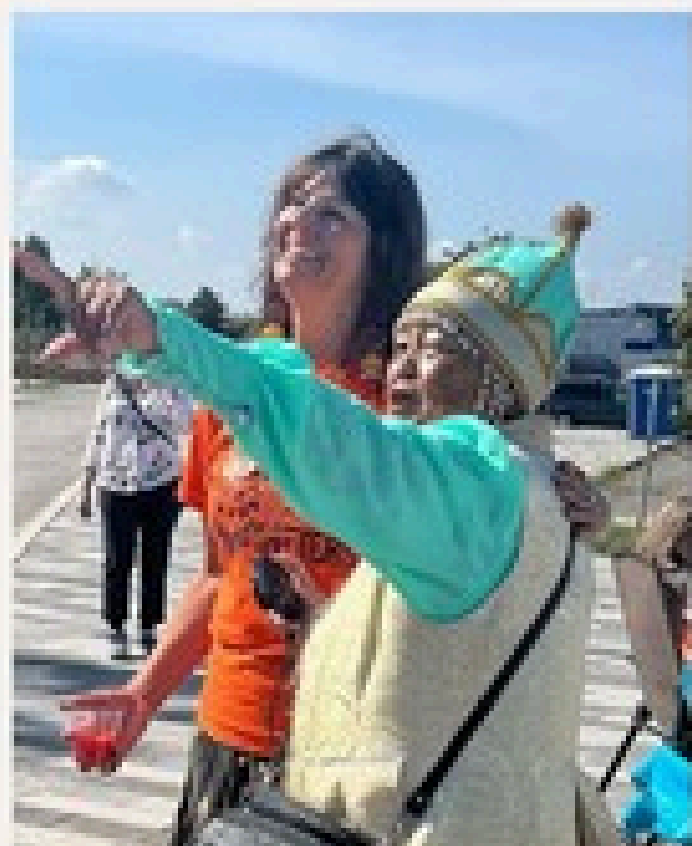
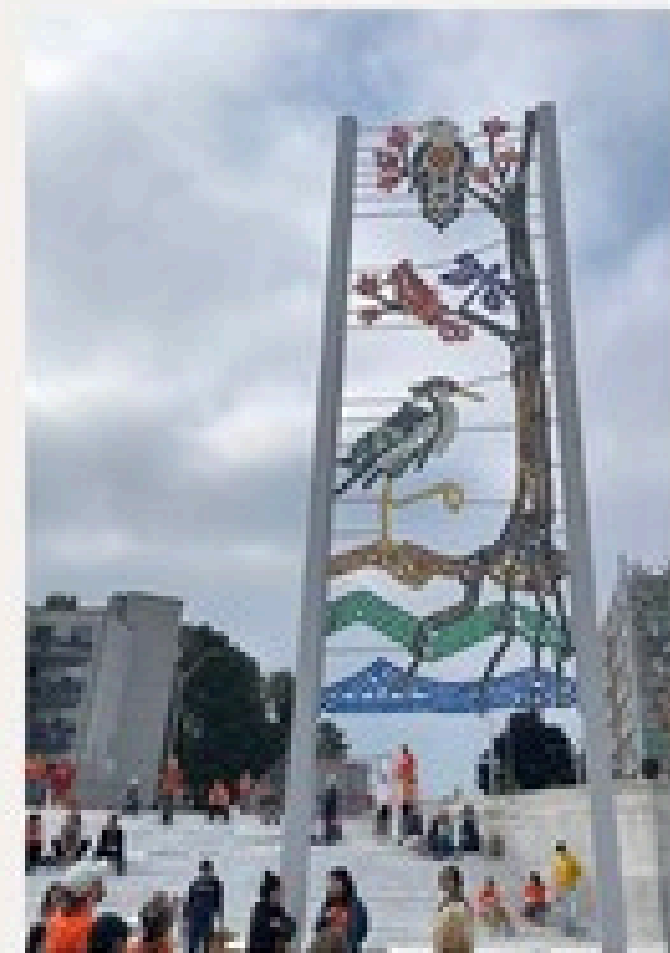


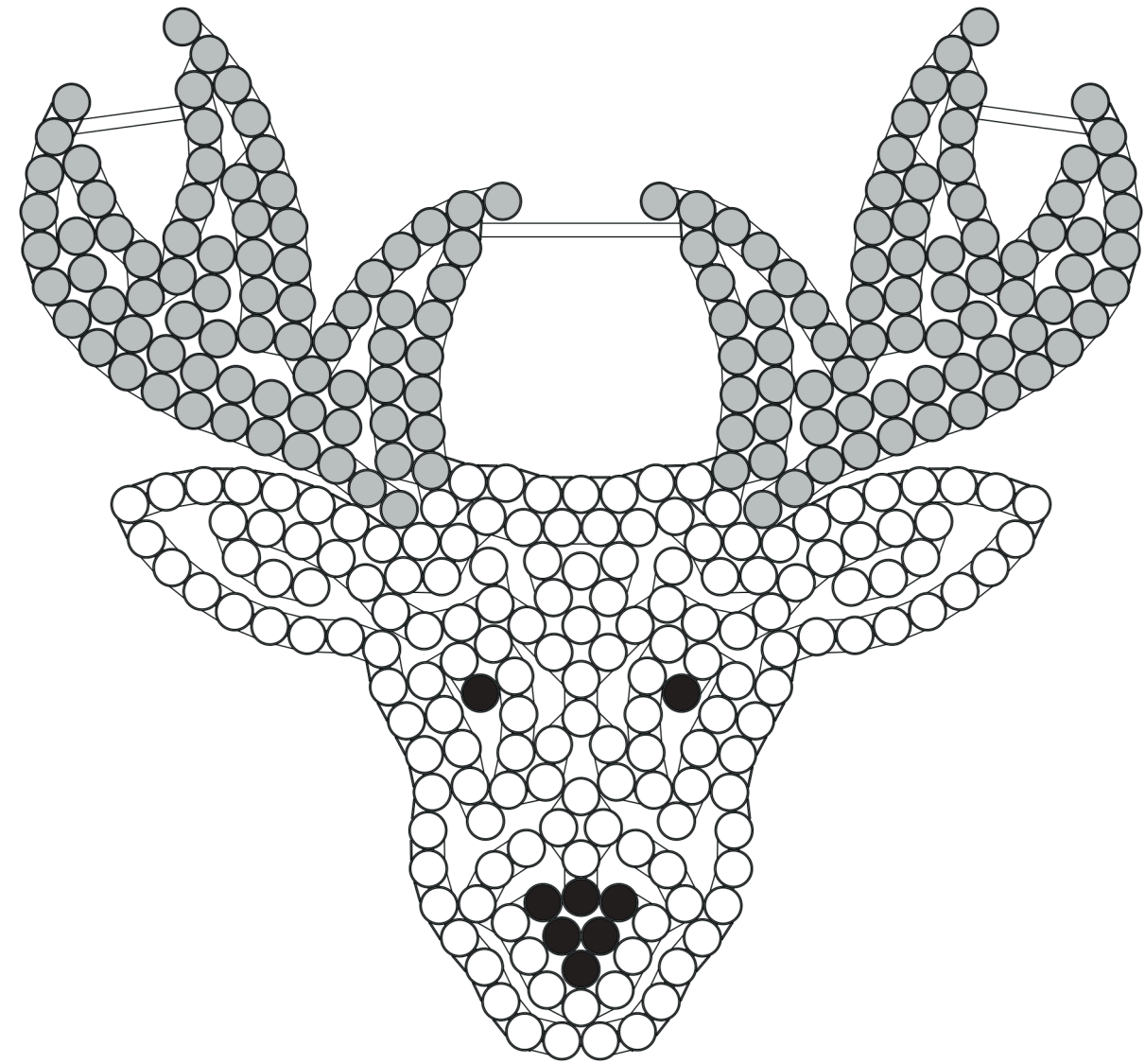


allourrelations









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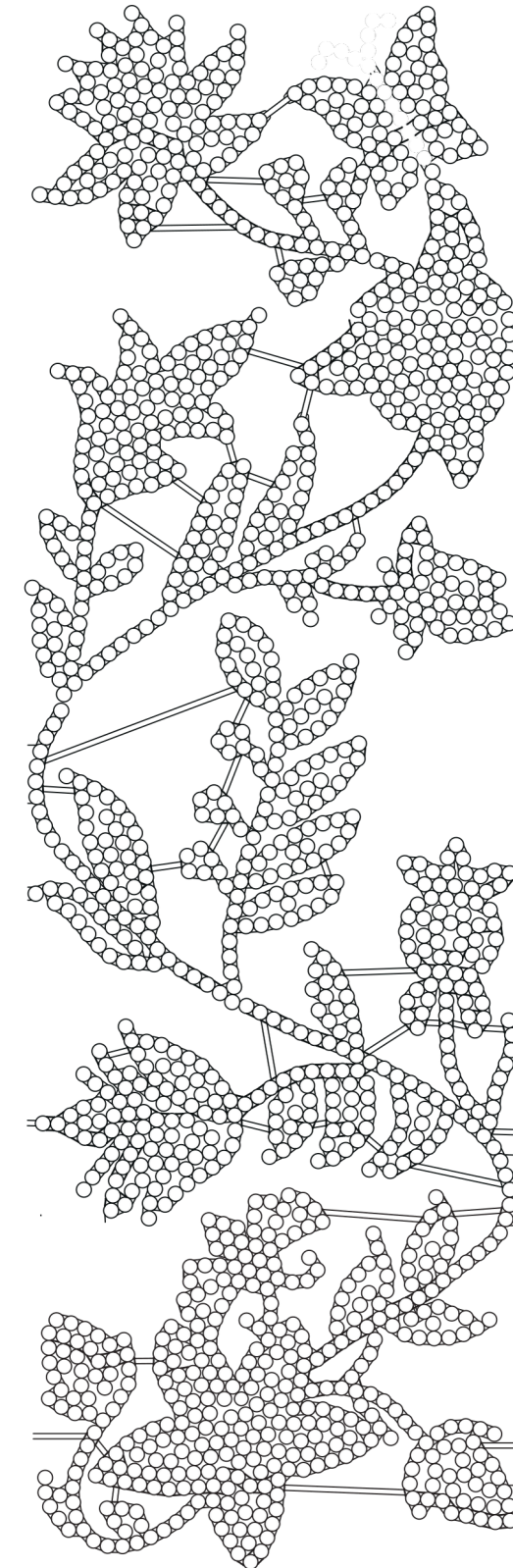
# ALL OUR RELATIONS a public art project

# ALL OUR RELATIONS

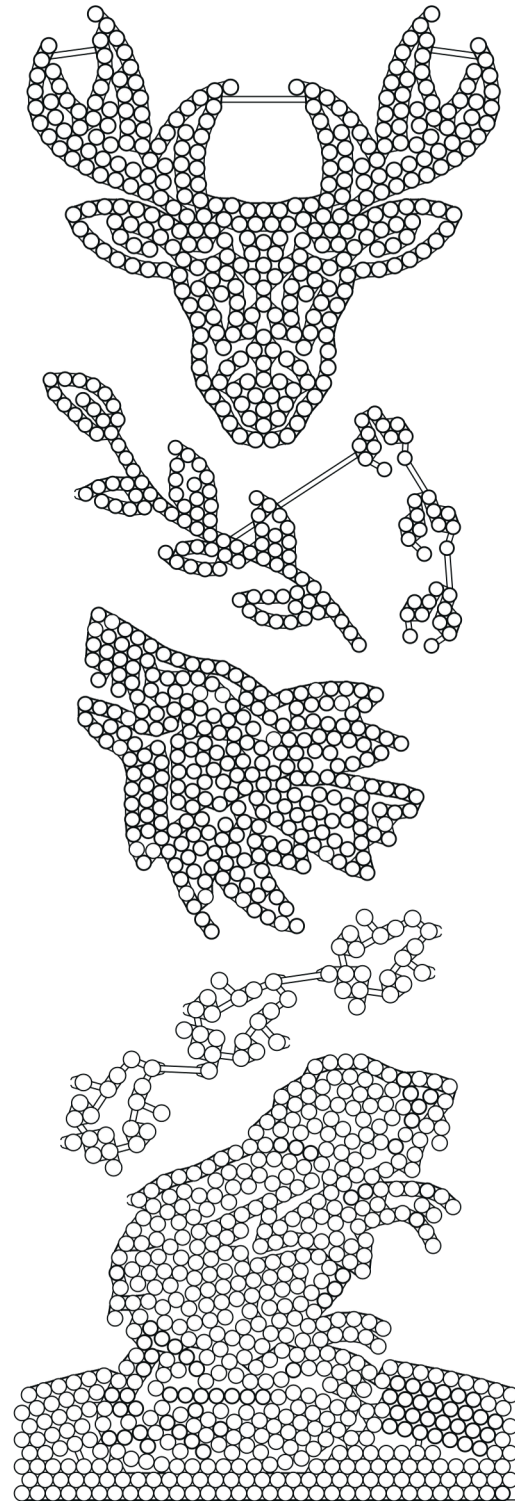
A PUBLIC ART  
PROJECT BY  
ANGELA  
DEMONTIGNY  
COBALT CONNECTS  
PAULL RODRIGUES  
GLASS  
LAFONTAINE IRON  
WERKS

Introduction text by Angela DeMontigny

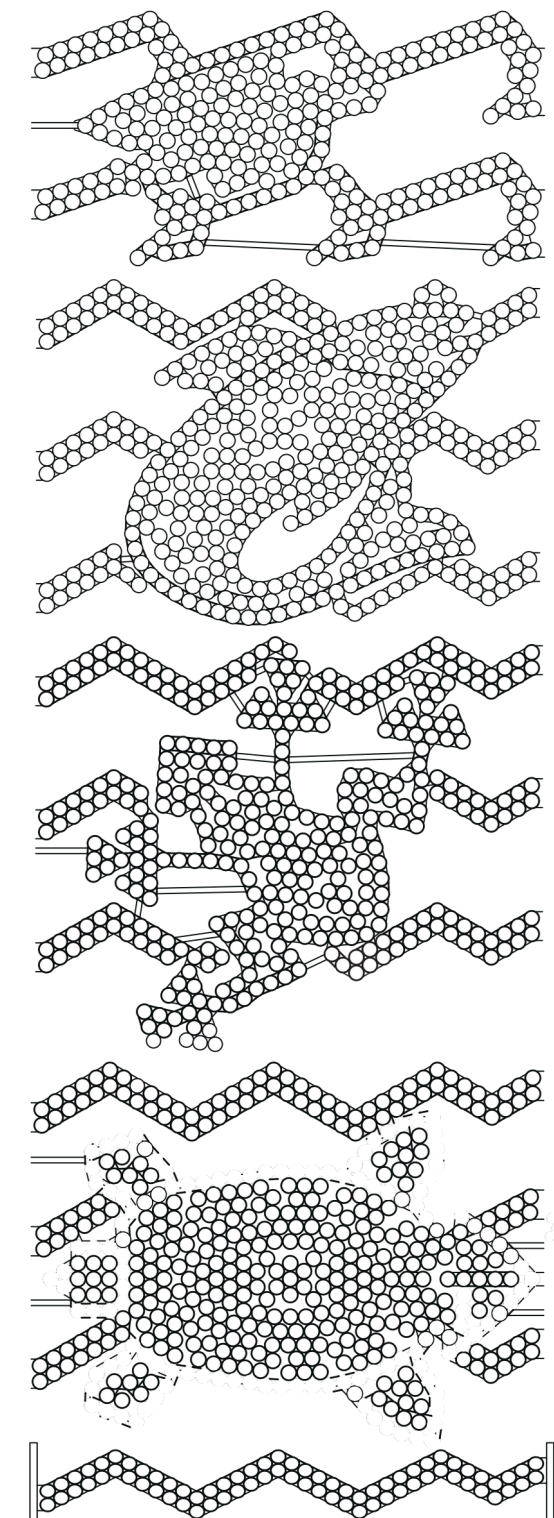
# PLANTS AND MEDICINES



# THE FOUR LEGGEDS



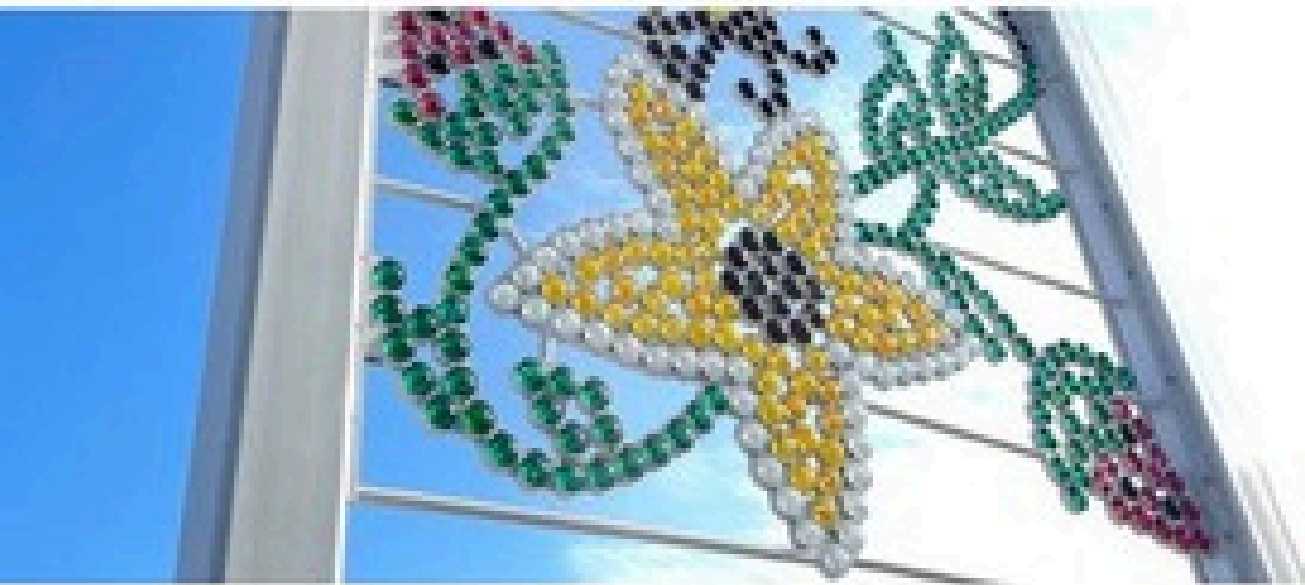
# WATER & THE SWIMMERS



ARTS + CULTURE

# WATERFRONT ART IS A SOARING, THOUGHTFUL ODE TO INDIGENOUS WAYS OF THINKING

By Stephanie Vegh / Oct 27, 2023



*All Our Relations* features luminous hand-blown glass beads in intricate depictions of animals, trees, healing plants, earthly elements and celestial beings.



©MarkZelinski.com from the book "Niagara Escarpment: Land Between Waters"

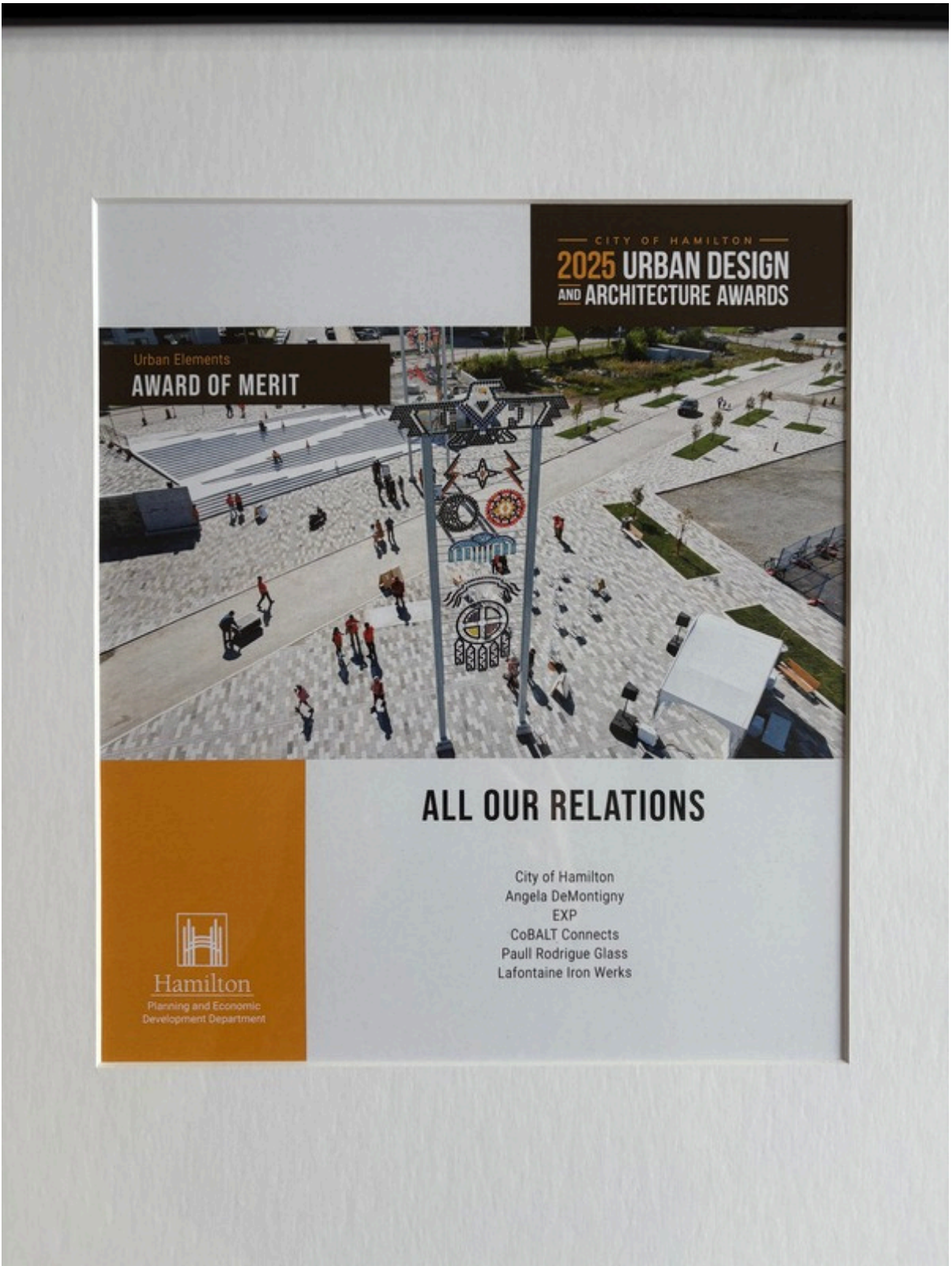


Photo courtesy of ©MarkZelinski.com

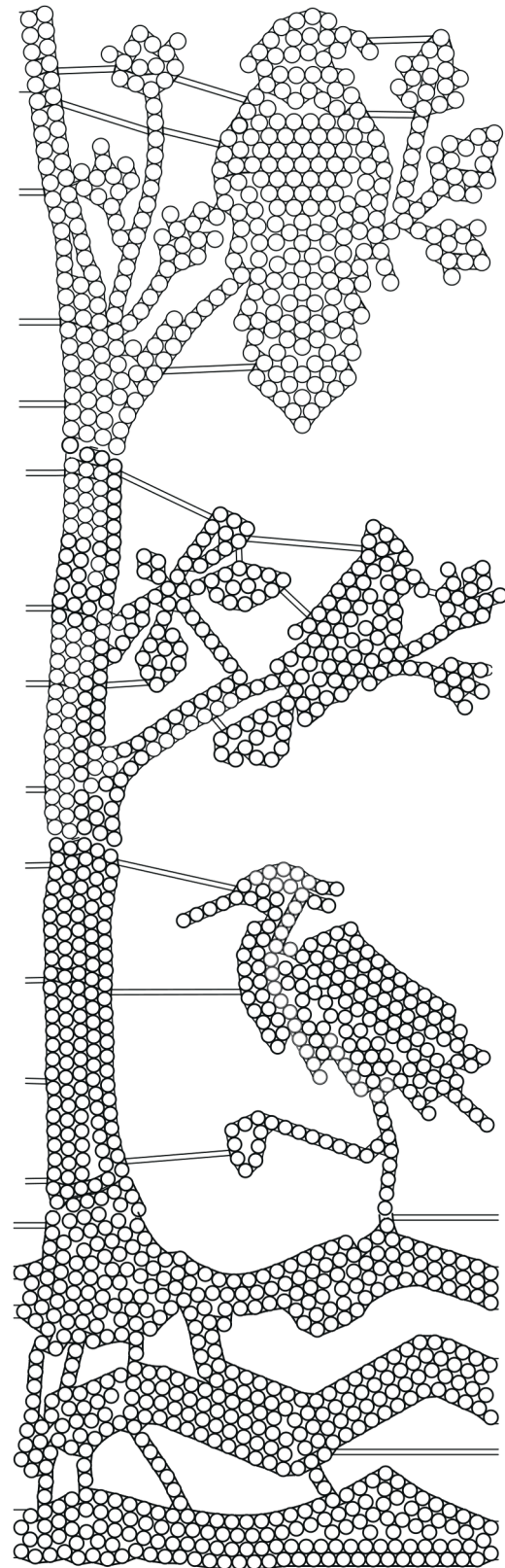


# AOR wins the Hamilton Art of Heritage Award - June 2025

# AOR WINS AN AWARD OF MERIT FOR THE HAMILTON URBAN DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE AWARDS - NOV. 2025



**MOTHER EARTH,  
TREES AND  
THE WINGED  
ONES**



**THE THUNDERBIRD,  
CELESTIAL &  
CULTURAL  
ELEMENTS,  
INDIGENOUS  
NATIONS**

