

The 2025 Eldon + Anne Foote Edmonton Visual Arts Prize

mīkisak ḡṙṙṙ

mīkisak ḡṙṙṙ in nehiyawewin translates to *beads*. This large 10 foot sculpture is inspired by a beaded fringe earring. It includes 50 pink, purple and baby blue hand blown glass beads. With this piece Cheyenne reimagines beads by enlarging them in scale. *mīkisak ḡṙṙṙ* celebrates the beauty and traditional uses of beads but pushes into another realm. Similarly to her other works, Cheyenne is reclaiming traditional practices and expanding on them. She blends the past and the future using technology she has access to today. Through this work she invites others to join and experience her expressions of the future.

This work reflects revitalization and Indigenous Futurism as it honours Indigenous history and traditional practices of her ancestors while also expanding on them. Indigenous people always had a love for beads and her goal with this work was to bring joy to her community by creating a giant beaded earring.

In Cheyenne's practice she works in a variety of mediums: photography, fashion, sound, video, installation, and public art. Her work speaks to the past, present and future. Through her work she hopes to send messages of: love, intergenerational joy and intergenerational resilience.

This work was a part of Downtown Spark and was displayed in Alex Decoteau Park from May 23 to June 2nd.

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Community Impact (completed by Edmonton Downtown Business Association)

Downtown Spark is a public art festival featuring mega-sized pop-up art installations designed by international and local artists. These pieces are spread throughout Downtown Edmonton and activated by events like dance parties, dog parties and concerts. This year, the Edmonton Downtown Business Association also produced an evening of Indigenous-themed programming called "O-day'min Day". O-day'min is an Anishinaabe word meaning strawberry or heart-berry - downtown is the heart of the city.

Cheyenne Rain LeGrande's *mîkiskak ĨPⁿ* was prominently displayed at Alex Decoteau Park, a space named after the Cree athlete, police officer and soldier. While we intended to have O-day'min Day at Alex Decoteau Park, inclement weather forced the event indoors. Other activations around LeGrande's work included Bark & Brew, 80s & 90s video dance parties, Kids' Day and a DJ showcase.

Access to the piece was free, 24 hours per day from May 23 - June 2, 2024.

mîkiskak ĨPⁿ shared with our audience a glimpse of Indigenous traditional practices through a contemporary lens. It was a popular selfie spot in part because of the size and beauty of the glass and also because the artist statement displayed next to it gave people space to pause and reflect on its meaning.

Having a pop-up piece by contemporary Indigenous artist in a space named after Canada's first Indigenous police officer represented an intergenerational harmony only possible through a piece like *mîkiskak ĨPⁿ*.