



SKAWENNATI

TEIAKWANAHSTAHSONTÉHRHA' | WE EXTEND THE RAFTERS

FAMILY BOOKLET

TEIAKWANAHSTAHSONTÉHRHA' WE EXTEND THE RAFTERS

The bilingual title of the exhibition—in Kanien'kéha (Mohawk) and in English—refers to the action of “extending the rafters” of a longhouse.



Skawennati,
inside a longhouse,
still from
The Peacemaker Returns,
2017.

These traditional Indigenous homes welcomed multiple families. Made of thin wooden posts and bark, they were easy to **lengthen for newcomers** to the clan through marriages, births and alliances.

The title chosen by the artist encompasses the broader notion of acceptance and inclusion of all differences, in the spirit of **Respect, Unity and Peace**.



View of the exhibition, VOX, 2017.
Photo: Michel Brunelle.

Take a closer look at
Skawennati's luminous installation...
Did you see this structure
in her video?

What does it recall?*

**A futuristic longhouse*

THE PEACEMAKER RETURNS

Skawennati's exhibition includes a new **machinima**, an animation-style movie produced on the virtual reality platform Second Life.

The machinima was inspired by the story of **Tekanawí:ta the Peacemaker**. This founding legend of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) culture comes from oral tradition, with somewhere between 20 and 40 variations in existence!

According to the Haudenosaunee Confederacy story as told by Skawennati, Tekanawí:ta promised to return if needed.

In the machinima, Kahentéhshon travels all over the world to reestablish and broaden the Great Law of Peace.

Why do you think a Peacemaker comes back in our time?*

**Conflicts, environment, inequalities, etc.*



Tekanawí:ta (circa 1100)



Kahentéhshon (today)



lotetshèn:'en (3025)

Images:
Skawennati, *Becoming the Peacemaker*
(Tekanawí:ta, Kahentéhshon, lotetshèn:'en),
machinimagraphs from *The Peacemaker Returns*, 2017.

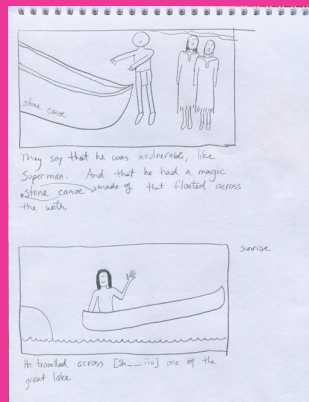
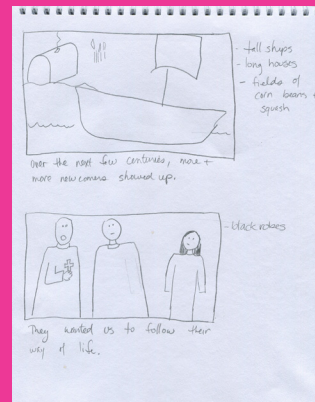
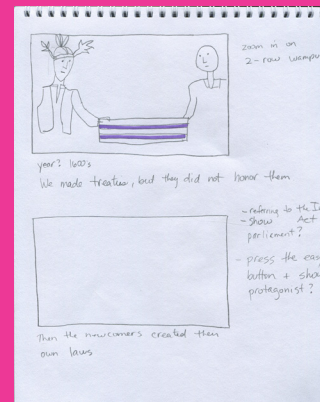
ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in Kahnawà:ke in Mohawk Territory (near Montréal), Skawennati makes art that addresses history, the future, and change from an Indigenous perspective.

Best known for her machinimas—movies made in virtual environments—she also produces still images, sculptures and textile works.



**Skawennati made a storyboard to create her machinima.
Do you recognize some of the scenes from “The Peacemaker Returns”?**



Skawennati. Photo: Roger Lemoyne.

WAMPUMS

Wampums are unique objects of great value. They played different roles throughout history, mainly as reminders of **peace treaties**.

Their symbolic drawings relate events that have been passed down through the **oral tradition**, from one generation to the next.

Become part of that chain by listening to Skawennati's video carefully, and discover what each of her 5 wampums mean!
Do you have a favorite?



View of the exhibition, VOX, 2017. Photo: Michel Brunelle.



Originally, the wampums were made with purple and white seashells that were carved, polished and pierced. Each "bead" was fragile and precious.

What are Skawennati's wampums made of?*

**Need a hint? In an exhibition, wall labels give a lot of information.*

Skawennati, Five-Row Wampum and Intergalactic Empowerment Wampum (3025), still from *The Peacemaker Returns*, 2017.

YOUR TURN!

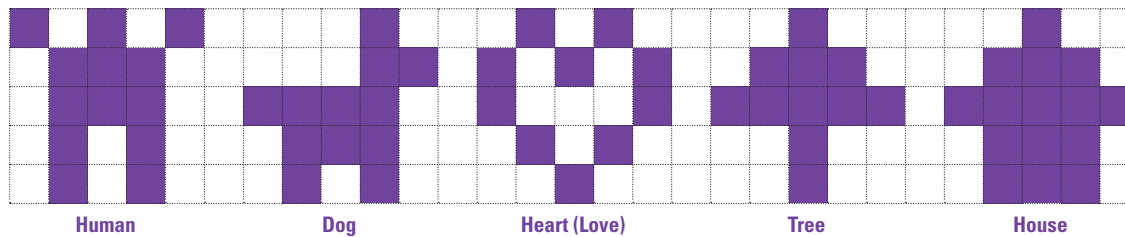
Be like Skawennati and create your own wampum!

Start by choosing an event that is important to you (for example, the birth of a brother or sister, a special activity with your family or at school).

Next, using the grid—where each square represents a bead—draw a few symbols to illustrate it. Then, tell a friend!



Skawennati, Two-Row Wampum (circa 1600), still from *The Peacemaker Returns*, 2017.



Here are some patterns to inspire you. But feel free to invent your own!

The *Teiakwanahstahsontéhrha* tour benefits from the financial support of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec. This exhibition was produced in 2017 by VOX, centre de l'image contemporaine in partnership with Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace (AbTeC) and Obx Labs, with financial support from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Quebec Ministry of Culture and Communications and the City of Montreal under the Agreement on the Cultural Development of Montreal, as well as the Community Fund for Canada's 150th.



Canada Council
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des arts
et des lettres
du Québec

VOX

Centre de l'image contemporaine

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Be like Skawennati and create your own wampum! Start by choosing an event that's important to you. It can be something that's already happened, or that hasn't happened yet (for example, the birth of a brother or sister, a special activity with your family or at school, meeting a new friend...). You can also make up a story, if you like. Next, using the grids below—where each square represents a bead—draw a few symbols to illustrate it. And why not show your wampum to your friends and share its story?

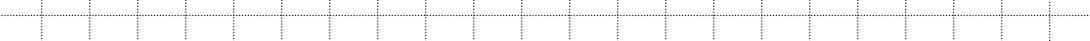
YOUR TURN!

Start with a few test drawings...

Have you tried different colours?



When you're ready, draw your final wampum and write down its title, if it has one: _____



Here are some patterns to inspire you. But feel free to invent your own!

A 6x20 grid of alternating black and white squares, resembling a checkerboard pattern. The pattern is complex, with black squares forming various shapes and clusters across the grid.

Human

Dog

Heart

Tree

House

