## Indigenous Knowledges and Sustainable Pasts/Futures

Mountain Time Arts and the Center for Arts, Design + Social Research present a public symposium featuring work-in-progress readings by five distinguished writers and artists.

The Rialto Light Box, 10 W Main St, Bozeman, MT on August 29th at 6 pm

Indigenous Knowledges and Sustainable Pasts/Futures is a writers' and artists' residency being held over a 7-day period in Bozeman, Montana from August 24-30, 2018. The project is co-organized by **Mountain Time Arts** (Gallatin County, MT) and the **Center for Arts**, **Design and Social Research** (Boston, MA).

Throughout the conversations during the residency, questions of history, memory, and the centrality of cultural practices to our pasts and futures, have emerged, Also, we have asked: How are we teaching our youth and each other? What languages should we be using? As we look around us, what names need to be changed?

In this public presentation, works in progress will be shared, including fiction, non-fiction, scholarly writing, and works of art, including video, sculpture, painting, performance, and pottery.

**DALIDA MARIA BENFIELD**, Ph.D., is a humanities scholar (Comparative Ethnic Studies, M.A. and Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley), artist, and theorist who researches and activates feminist and decolonial thought, pedagogies, and social change in the context of global media and information flows. She is Research and Program Director at the Center for Arts, Design, and Social Research. and co-founder of the Institute of (im)Possible Subjects, a transnational feminist collective of writers and researchers. Her current research and artistic practice includes transmedia exhibition and pedagogical projects such as "Migratory Times," "the Museum of Random Memory," "losarchivosdelcuerpo" and "agua-cines," all of which create public platforms for critical media literacy, social critique and knowledge-sharing.

**NANCY DELEARY** is a member of the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. She creates works of art that highlights the history and presence of her people, the Anishinaabe. She earned her MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts in 2015. After two years of teaching at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM, she has returned to her traditional territory to build an art studio and work independently as a freelance artist.

**THOMAS MICHAEL SWENSEN** was born in Kodiak, Alaska. Dr. Swensen is an original shareholder in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement corporations Koniag, Inc., and Leisnoi, Inc., as well as an enrolled member of the federally recognized Tangirnaq Native Village. He has published widely and works as an assistant professor of ethnic studies at the University of Utah. He's writing a manuscript about the 1964 Great Alaskan

Earthquake and the following series of tsunamis that destroyed villages and towns in the Kodiak Archipelago.

**BENTLY SPANG** is a multi-disciplinary artist, curator, educator and writer working in mixed media, sculpture, video, performance, and installation. He is also an enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne Nation in Montana, the home of the Tsistsistas/Suhtaio people. Years of exposure to the contemporary and historical artwork of his people, in both community and museum contexts, have helped Spang understand his role as a contemporary Tsistsistas/Suhtaio artist. Spang's artwork has exhibited widely in the US, Europe, Mexico, Canada, and South America. Museum collections include the Denver Art Museum, National Museum of the American Indian and the Montclair Art Museum. Spang has been a visiting professor at Tufts University, Bard College and the Center for Arts, Design + Social Research. He Is a 2018 recipient of the Native Arts and Culture Foundation award and 2017 Montana Arts Council Artist Innovation Award.

JODI RAVE SPOTTED-BEAR is an award-winning writer. Ms. Spotted Bear lives in New Town, N.D. on the Fort Berthold Reservation. She is Lakota, Mandan and Hidatsa. Jodi is the recipient of numerous awards from mainstream, military, university and Native American press associations. She wrote for daily newspapers for nearly 15 years. Her first story was published more than three decades ago. Jodi reported on American Indian issues for 11 years as a national correspondent for Lee Newspapers in Missoula, Montana and Lincoln, Nebraska. She founded White Swan Media and is now the publisher of Buffalo's Fire, an independent digital news site. Jodi was awarded a Nieman Fellowship for journalists at Harvard University in 2003-2004. She is also the recipient of national awards and honors for news and opinion writing, including the Society of Professional Journalists Pacific Northwest, Native American Journalists Association, Montana Newspaper Association, Columbia University School of Journalism and the University of Nebraska. She was also awarded the Paul D. Savanuck Military Print Journalist of the Year Award.



**Mountain Time Arts** is a not-for-profit organization. MTA produces inventive public art projects, workshops and symposia that enliven our relationships to the history, culture and environment of the Rocky Mountain West. We cultivate

relationships between artists, scholars and community members to conduct research and produce projects about critical issues in Southwestern Montana. MTA is committed to social and environmental justice. We understand collaborative and inclusive inquiry as a means to generate new knowledge and work toward solutions for all.

The Center for Arts, Design and Social Research is a not-for-profit educational corporation based in Boston, MA and with programs held locally, nationally, and internationally. Our programs convene artists, designers, and scholars to share knowledge and discuss emerging issues in global societies with each other and the general public. CAD+SR is founded on the principle that creative work is essential to all human cultures and the foundation for building sustainable, interdependent, and peaceful global societies. The Center's programs include year-round public programs of exhibitions, lectures, seminars, symposia, as well as programs designed specifically for artists, designers, and humanities and social science researchers, including organizing collaborative research projects, month-long residencies, and edited publications of recent research.

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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