

***Creative Process with Augmented Reality***

**Artist Talk by T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss & sumaxatk<sup>w</sup> Tracey Kim Bonneau**

Long version:

**Fuel presents**

**The Vaccinium Berry Collective**

**Created by T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss & Dr Lori Bystrom**

**PuSh Festival - 20th January - 6th February 2022 (PuSh to confirm dates that people can see the presentation)**

**Artist Talk by T'uy't'tanat Cease Wyss & sumaxatk<sup>w</sup> Tracey Kim Bonneau**

**PuSh Festival – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Cease Wyss, an indigenous rights activist and ethnobotanist, and Dr Lori Bystrom, a nutritional scientist, plant chemist and ethnobotanist in academia are 7000 miles apart. And yet they could not be any closer, for they are united by a passion for protecting the Vaccinium, a genus of wild berries. Both joined forces with their shared desire to help preserve the traditional knowledge of these berries, to promote food security and health for future generations. These deceptively ordinary looking berries are prized for their protective, immune boosting qualities. Devastatingly, as with all plants, they are at risk of being extinct due to climate change.

In The Vaccinium Berry Collective, Wyss and Bystrom came together, supported by futurism developers and technicians, to create a series of AR (Augmented Reality) sculptures, shedding light on the extraordinary potential of this at-risk species of plants. Seemingly insurmountable divisions are set aside in this ambitious, collaborative project. This cross-cultural, experiential XR project, fusing Traditional Indigenous Knowledge with Scientific Data, produces a new cultural and scientific knowledge, with the ultimate aim of protecting this endangered species from being another casualty of the climate crisis.

In this artist talk, Cease Wyss shares the creative process behind The Vaccinium Berry Collective, and her work with the Indigenous Matriarchs 4 Lab - an XR Media Lab. Tracey Kim Bonneau is a syilx traditional knowledge keeper and award winning documentary filmmaker, who is a Matriarch with the IM4 Lab created by visionary leader in Indigenous media Loretta Todd. Tracey is an invited artist of The Vaccinium Berry Collective, who will be joining the conversation about this project and how her current work led her to join this project, as well as how their collective embodies the work that both Wyss and Bonneau have been actively involved in doing to protect indigenous food systems in their cultural communities. Participants will be the first to experience this new work through QR codes, when this project fully launches.

Once connected, the "audience member" will be able to see these "sculptures" through their phone, superimposed on whatever the camera is looking at. Much like Pokemon Go!

**The Vaccinium Berry Collective is part of New Conversations, a programme funded and delivered by the British Council, Canada Council for the Arts, Farnham Maltings, and the**

**High Commission of Canada in the UK. The Vaccinium Berry Collective is also supported by a grant from the Wellcome Trust through their Sustaining Excellence Fund.**

Short version:

In *The Vaccinium Berry Collective*, Cease Wyss, an indigenous rights activist and ethnobotanist, and Dr Lori Bystrom, a nutritional scientist, plant chemist and ethnobotanist in academia came together, to create a series of AR (Augmented Reality) sculptures, shedding light on the extraordinary potential of the Vaccinium, an at-risk genus of wild berries. This experiential XR project, fuses Traditional Indigenous Knowledge with Scientific Data, with the ultimate aim of protecting the Vaccinium species from being another casualty of the climate crisis.

In this artist talk, Wyss shares the creative process behind *The Vaccinium Berry Collective*, and her work with the IM4 Media Lab founded by Loretta Todd. Tracey Kim Bonneau is a syilx traditional knowledge keeper and documentary filmmaker who is a Matriarch with IM4. Bonneau, as an invited artist of *The Vaccinium Berry Collective*, will join the conversation about this project exploring the work that both Wyss and Bonneau have been doing to protect Indigenous food systems in their cultural communities. Participants will experience this new work through QR codes. Once connected, the "audience member" will see these "sculptures" through their phone. Much like Pokemon Go!

*The Vaccinium Berry Collective* is commissioned and produced by leading UK producers Fuel, supported by a grant from the Wellcome Trust through their Sustaining Excellence Fund. The work is also part of New Conversations, a programme funded and delivered by the British Council, Canada Council for the Arts, Farnham Maltings, and the High Commission of Canada in the UK.

T'uy't'tanat-Cease Wyss

Skwxwu7mesh/Sto:Lo/Hawaiian/Swiss

T'uy't'tanat- Cease Wyss is an interdisciplinary artist who works with digital media, writing, performance and interdisciplinary arts, and is a community engaged and public artist.

Her works range over 30 years and have always focussed on sustainability, permaculture techniques, Coast Salish Cultural elements and have included themes of ethnobotany, indigenous language revival, Salish weaving and digital media technology. Cease has focussed on connecting her Polynesian roots to her Salish roots through weaving and digital media projects. She has recently been given opportunities for collaborating with indigenous peoples throughout Oceania, specifically Polynesian peoples.

Cease is embarking on a series of Futurisms projects on national and international projects and will be collaborating with artists and scientists in development of these new works.

Tracey Kim Bonneau is a member of the syilx Nation, born and raised within the unceded traditional territory of the Okanagan people. Tracey has received recognition from The Canadian Association of Broadcasters, BC Motion Picture Arts & Sciences

Foundation of British Columbia (Leo Awards), American Indian Film Institute and The BC Association of Broadcasters for her riveting documentaries. Tracey is also known for her travel documentary series Quest OutWest Wild Food airing on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. Tracey has successfully produced, written and hosted 39 ½ hour episodes since 2014. The series has been greenlit for 13 more episodes and is scheduled for production, in the Spring of 2022. Tracey is a veteran broadcaster with Thirty years' experience in print, radio, television and multimedia digital platforms. In 2018 Tracey joined the IM4 Lab as a Matriarch in collaboration with Emily Carr University to offer workshops training Indigenous peoples in XR. IM4 is dedicated to Indigenizing VR/AR/360 by enabling Indigenous communities to find effective ways to incorporate these technologies into educational, cultural, language, artistic, commercial applications. Aside from her arts career Tracey is the Manager of Arts Culture and Adult Higher Learning at En'owkin Centre located in Penticton. [www.traceykimbonneau.com](http://www.traceykimbonneau.com)