

Disability Artivism Across the Flyover Provinces

November 28, 2019, 9:00-3:15, Dr. William Riddell Centre, University of Regina

Disability Artivism Across the Flyover Provinces is an opportunity to name prairie-based contributions to the global disability arts movement. From within the walls of institutions to center stage, disabled people have always made art. However, the past 50 years have been a time of growing momentum for disability art and culture in Canada, as demonstrated by the Canada Council's recent attention to crip aesthetics. We are witnessing a quiet politicization of disability art across the prairies, where disabled artists are building activist (art + activist) communities through gestures of interdependence, crip aesthetics, and disability justice. These communities create diverse, multiple representations of disability that include traditional ways of knowing and art connected to treaty lands. Recognizing how this work pushes the boundaries of disability representation, topics of discussion include:

- How does the work of disabled artists disrupt—or crip—normative artistic practices on the prairies?
- What role can organizations play in respecting disabled artists?
- What role does access play in making disability art and activism possible here?
- How can we move toward a model of “solidarity not charity” as we build and fund a strong disability arts community?
- What is the future of disability art and activism on the prairies?

This event is sponsored by the University of Regina University Conference Fund, The Big Sky Centre for Learning and Being Astonished! Inc., the University of Regina Faculty of Media, Art, and Performance, and the University of Regina Faculty of Social Work.

The VOICE Lab is a Mitacs Funded research lab investigating the creative and political use of voice in the disability community. It is shared by the Faculties of MAP, Social Work and by Astonished! Dr. Chelsea Jones is the Mitacs Postdoctoral Fellow in the VOICE Lab.

SCHEDULE

9:00 - 9:30 am - Doors open/coffee/light refreshments

9:30 - 9:45 am - Land Acknowledgement, Opening Prayer (Lorna Standingready), Opening Remarks and Access Statement

9:45 - 10:30 - Keynote Address: Kirsty Johnson

10:30 - 10:45 - Access Break

10:45 - 11:45 pm - Panel: We Create Here Too: Disability, Deaf, and Crip Arts on the Prairies

11:45 - 1:15 - Lunch and Showcase: Astonished! Artists Showcase VOICE Lab work

1:15 - 2:00 - Jam Session

2:00 - 2:15 - Access Break

2:15 - 3:00 - Snack and Talk Back: Crippling the Arts/ What's new? What's next? Hearing from the Arts Institutions

3:00 - 3:15 - Concluding remarks