

Rockies Repeat Key Messages - Media Kit

// Emerging artists revisit iconic landscapes in the Canadian Rockies //

Our Project



Rockies Repeat is a human-powered creative journey where culture meets conservation and the past and present intersect.



The project includes a documentary, exhibit, and digital storytelling capsule that bears witness to climate change in the Rocky Mountains while inspiring action to preserve these places for future generations.

Our Vision



Our all-woman collective of Indigenous and settler artists travel by foot to revisit iconic sites in the Canadian Rockies painted by early Banff artist, Catharine Robb Whyte a century ago as a bellwether for climate change.

Our Goals



Honour iconic Rocky Mountain landscapes as traditional lands seeped in story and culture.



Pay tribute to the role that Catharine Robb Whyte and her contemporaries played in breaking barriers for female creators in the Rockies.



Raise awareness about impacts of climate change in the Canadian Rockies that threaten the future of the places we love.

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Our Deliverables



Short documentary Approx. 15 mins



Exhibit at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies 2022 Exposure Festival



Our Impact



By 2100, the iconic glacial landscapes of the Rocky Mountains could be gone. Not only would this dramatically impact ecology and regional watersheds, but it threatens to erode our cultural imagination and our connection to these places.



Early landscape paintings portrayed mountain landscapes as pristine wilderness while excluding over 10,000 years of Indigenous relations with the land. Our artist team recontextualizes century-old canvases within a landscape of story to build a new narrative of Rocky Mountain culture.



We follow in the footsteps of creative ancestors to bear witness to a disappearing landscape while using the power of art to mobilize the next generation of stewards of the Rocky Mountains.

Creative Approach



For over 10,000 years, the Rocky Mountains have offered home, refuge, and sustenance to many nations of Indigenous Peoples. We honour this legacy. Wherever possible, we will use traditional place names, recognize traditional territories, and will reframe colonial legacies that excluded Indigenous Peoples from the land and our cultural narratives.



Layering present on past is a creative philosophy we will apply to all aspects of the film. We are using vintage cinema prime lenses shot on a cinema camera in 4K wide frame format. Vibrant images of the artists juxtapose archival footage and original photos and artwork of the artists and ancestors that came before them.



Rich textures from the mountains will interlace interviews with knowledge keepers, historians, and climate change research who provide context about how these mountains -- and the way we see them -- have changed in a century, and what lies ahead for the next generation of artists in the Rockies.

FAQs



Why are you doing this project?

By 2100, the iconic glacial landscapes of the Rocky Mountains could be gone. Not only would this dramatically impact ecology and regional watersheds, but it threatens to erode our cultural imagination and our connection to these places.

We believe art affects change by reaching minds through hearts. We follow in the footsteps of creative ancestors to bear witness to a disappearing landscape while using the power of art to mobilize the next generation of stewards of the Rocky Mountains.

What inspired Rockies Repeat?

Our team is based in the Rocky Mountains and fed by glacial waters. We depend on the sustained health of this landscape. We are inspired to do what we can as artists to make a difference. We draw inspiration from other projects that connect us to the geography of the past -- namely, the Mountain Legacy Project and the Lens of Time Northwest.

What locations are you going to?

Our all-women collective of emerging artists are revisiting select areas in the Rocky Mountains to revisit original paintings Catharine Robb Whyte that prominently feature glacial landscapes within the traditional territories of the Ktunaxa Nation, Secwépemc First Nations, Treaty 6, 7 and 8 Nations, and Regions 3 and 4of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

Our human-powered journey will take us 5 to 8 different painting locations.

Who was Catharine Robb Whyte, and what is her lasting impact?

Catharine Robb Whyte was raised in Concord, Massachusetts. She studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston in 1925, where she met Peter Whyte, a fellow student from the mountains of Banff, Alberta. She travelled with Peter to Banff, where they built a life of creativity and adventure as professional artists while forging special friendships with families from the neighbouring Stoney Nakoda Nation.

Catharine's work helped define a sense of place in the Rockies, and her living legacy has inspired new generations of female artists who are drawn to the awe of the mountains. Her (and Peter's) generous love of art and culture led to the formation of the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies that is now a place of gathering and reconciliation at the heart of the Rockies. For more information, visit: whyte.org

How do I follow the Rockies Repeat project?





