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Sept. 19, 2017

Media Advisory

WHAT: Panel Discussion: “Art & Activism: Indigenous Perspectives”

WHEN: Friday, Sept. 22
1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: University of Minnesota–Twin Cities, Mississippi Room, Coffman Memorial Union
300 Washington Ave., S.E., Minneapolis, Minn.

WHO: Louise Erdrich, one of America's most celebrated writers
Edgar Heap of Birds, nationally renowned artist

Art reflects and often comments upon the political and cultural issues of the day. This distinguished panel of indigenous speakers, including Louise Erdrich, one of America’s most celebrated writers, and nationally renowned artist Edgar Heap of Birds, engage with current events and art created in response. The program is presented by the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

Welcome by Brenda Child, chair, Department of American Studies, the University of Minnesota, and trustee of the museum; and Cantemaza Neil McKay of the Department of American Indian Studies at University of Minnesota.

Panel discussion: “The Meanings of Activism Today: On the Reservation, in the City, and at Work”

- Kate Beane, American Indian Initiatives Program and Outreach Manager, Minnesota Historical Society
- Melissa Boyd, Bush Foundation Fellow for 2017
- Rory Wakemup, Director, All My Relations Gallery
- Bradley Harrington, Commissioner of Natural Resources, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
- Moderator: Nick Estes, Fellow, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University

The program concludes with a conversation with writer Louise Erdrich and artist Edgar Heap of Birds introduced by Kevin Gover, director of the National Museum of the American Indian.

Closing by Brenda Child.

Sponsored by the Department of American Studies, the Department of American Indian Studies, the Department of History, the RIGS Initiative, Center for Equity & Diversity at the University of Minnesota, and by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is committed to advancing knowledge and understanding of the Native cultures of the Western Hemisphere—past, present, and future—through partnership with Native people and others. The museum works to support the continuance of culture, traditional values, and transitions in contemporary Native life. Follow the museum via social media on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). To learn more about the museum's mission, visit AmericanIndian.si.edu.

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