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Film screening, workshop, concert reflect on Native adoption Friday – Saturday, July 22-23

Bozeman, MT — Continuing a summer of engaging public art, local nonprofit Tinworks Art is hosting a weekend of events intended to reveal and explore, through multiple artistic expressions, the grey areas of ethics surrounding Native American adoption.

This eye-opening and heart-expanding weekend will begin Friday, July 22 at 7:30PM with a film screening of “**Daughter of a Lost Bird**,” directed by **Brooke Pepion Swaney (Blackfeet/Salish)** followed by a panel discussion with cast and crew.

On Saturday, July 23, protagonist **Kendra Mylnechuk Potter (Lummi)** will host a **writing workshop on origin stories** from 10AM to noon. At 5:30 that evening, composer and musician **Laura Ortman (White Mountain Apache)** will perform a **concert** for the Tinworks Art audience.

“*Daughter of a Lost Bird*,” follows Kendra, an adult Native adoptee, as she reconnects with her birth family, discovers her *Lummi* heritage, and confronts issues of her own identity. In many ways, Kendra Potter is a perfect example of cultural assimilation, a modern representation of the painful phrase, “Kill the Indian, save the man.” She is a thriving woman who grew up in a loving, upper middle-class white family, and feels no significant loss with the absence of Native American culture or family in her life. And yet, as a *Blackfeet/Salish* woman, director Brooke Swaney could not imagine that Kendra could be content nor complete without understanding her heritage. Together, they embark on a 7-year journey.

Kendra's singular story echoes many affected by the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Indian Adoption Project.

The in-person panel discussion following the film screening will include Director & Producer, Brooke Pepion Swaney (*Blackfeet/Salish*); Protagonist & Producer, Kendra Mylnechek Potter (*Lummi*); Executive Producer, Gita Saedi Kiely; Impact Producer, Colleen Thurston; Producer, Jeri Rafter; and Composer, Laura Ortman (*White Mountain Apache*).

All events will be held at 719 N Ida, in Bozeman's northeast neighborhood. This former industrial complex is now the permanent home for Tinworks Art.

Tinworks Art 2022 is organized by consulting Curator, Dr. Melissa Ragain and consulting Assistant Curator, Dr. Jennifer Woodcock Medicine-Horse.

There is no charge for these events, but an RSVP is appreciated. For more information on these and other artists and events, and to reserve your spot, please visit the Tinworks Art website: www.tinworksart.org.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

BROOKE PEPION SWANEY (BLACKFEET/SALISH)

DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER

Brooke Pepion Swaney (*Blackfeet/Salish*) is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation and a descendent of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. This film is Brooke's first feature documentary.

Most recently and notably she made the Blacklist's Inaugural Indigenous List with *Tinder on the Res* along with her co-writer Angela Tucker. In 2019, she was selected to participate as a NATIVE Fellow at the European Film Market/Berlinale. She is also a 2014 Native Arts and Cultures Foundation Fellow and a 2013 Time Warner Fellow through the Sundance Institute. *OK Breathe, Auralee*, her NYU graduate thesis film, screened at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival and has TV distribution with FNX (First Nations Experience, a PBS affiliate). Brooke's experience also includes producing *Bella Vista* (Rotterdam 2014), Vision Maker Media funded short film and new media project *Sixty Four Flood* (PBS & PBS digital), and the first season of the podcast *All My Relations* (with Matika Wilbur & Dr. Adrienne Keene). She also worked with Revolution Messaging on the Bernie Sanders 2016 United States Presidential campaign on their digital media team, producing, directing, and editing; her Native Outreach ad "I AM HUMAN" received over 3 million hits on Facebook. Brooke is also a screenwriting faculty mentor at the Institute of American Indian Arts in their Creative Writing MFA program. She holds an MFA in Film from NYU.

KENDRA MYLNECHUK POTTER (LUMMI)

PROTAGONIST & PRODUCER

Kendra Mylnechuk Potter (*Lummi*), Protagonist & Producer of *Daughter of a Lost Bird*, has a background in theatre and embodiment practices rooted in yoga asana. Additionally, her work as a birth doula includes writing emergence stories for each new baby she supports.

Potter is an actor whose performances can be see in *Christmas under Wraps* (Hallmark), *2 Days in New York, Natives* (SXSW), and *OK Breathe Auralee* (Sundance,

Best Actor NBC/Universal Short Cuts), *The Blacklist* (NBC), *Winter in the Blood*, *We Burn Like This*, and *Copper City*.

In addition to her work on film, Kendra is a theatre artist and educator. She is cofounder of MT+NYC Collaborative, a cross country theatre company based in Missoula, MT. *The Buffalo Play*, which she co-wrote, premiered at The Tank in NYC in 2019. She supports people's search for identity and storytelling in workshops, retreats, and classes. *Daughter of a Lost Bird* is Potter's first time stepping behind the camera.

LAURA ORTMAN (WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE)

COMPOSER AND MUSICIAN

A soloist and vibrant collaborator, Laura Ortman (*White Mountain Apache*) works across recorded albums, live performances, and filmic and artistic soundtracks, and has collaborated with artists such as Tony Conrad, Jock Soto, Raven Chacon, Nanobah Becker, Okkyung Lee, Martin Bisi, Caroline Monnet, Martha Colburn, Tanya Lukin Linklater and Loren Connors.

She has performed at The Whitney Museum of American Art and Museum of Modern Art in New York, The Toronto Biennial in Ontario, the Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal, and the Centre Pompidou, Paris, among countless established and DIY venues in the U.S., Canada, and Europe.

In 2008, Ortman founded the Coast Orchestra, an all-Native American orchestral ensemble that performed a live soundtrack to Edward Curtis's film *In the Land of the Head Hunters* (1914), the first silent feature film to star an all-Native American cast.

Ortman is the recipient of the 2020 Jerome@Camargo Residency, 2017 Jerome Foundation Fellowship, the 2016 Art Matters Grant, the 2016 Native Arts and Culture Foundation Fellowship, the 2015 IAIA's Museum of Contemporary Native Arts Social Engagement Residency, and the 2014-15 Rauschenberg Residency. She was also a participating artist in the 2019 Whitney Biennial.