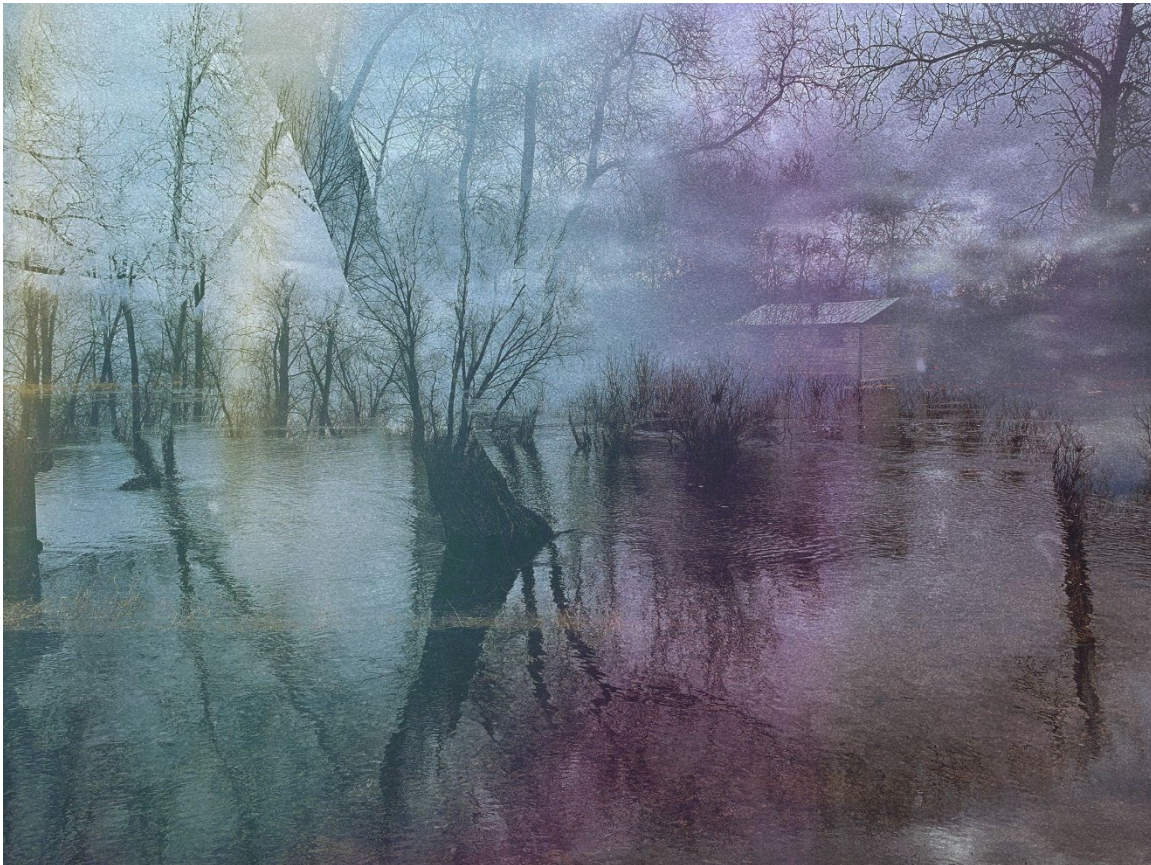


Pay Keeway | Come Home

Robyn Adams & Julien Tétrault

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Rivière aux rats
Photo collage by Julien Tétrault

***Pay Keeway* | Come Home**

The memory of her is here.
She blankets like a sponge,
soaking through the topsoil in wet spring.

She is the landscape, stretching her stories in every direction.
She is the Grandmothers, when you listen to her over tea you get—
pulled in,
stuck in—
Like tires in mud.

The house her brother built sits on a hill next to a garden that will appear in a few weeks. That's
where you spent all your summers.
Root vegetables in high sun—push into the ground.
But now, the water soaking the soil shoots up into the roots of *li l'yawr* and tells new stories
along the branches.

The life of this home is old.

Too long of a conversation to ever hear it all,
but too warm not to feel all of it at once. Like smoke, the ghosts of our ancestors permeate this
land.

The weight of the chain sits on the ground here, stomped on but still stolen. This hybrid home
will always be haunted now. The impression of a dark surveyed imprint on beaded wildflowers.
But your family knew how to walk with ghosts,
so you can still hear the stories shared here,
and spared here.

And now your family knows how to protect this land. How to love her.

Outside the home, there is an addition—a lean-to kitchen connecting to the yard out back. It carries *lee zaef* from the chickens, canned berries from the bush, and *la farine pour la gallet*.

The transition of spring makes you dream of *la tire*, your family harvesting from the Manitoba Maples for *li siiroo d'araab* harvested in the bush.

The passing of winter has turned into a heavy river. The ground says *ni nohtahy awpawkwawn*. And you reply, me too.

Maybe this land, *you think*, has room for another Michif like me.

Michif Terms

pay Keeway | come home

li l'yawr | cottonwood tree

lee zaef | eggs

la farine pour la gallet | flour for bannock

la tire | maple taffy on a stick

li siiroo d'araab | maple syrup

ni nohtahy awpawkwawn | I'm thirsty

Biographies

Julien Tétrault is a Michif designer currently studying Landscape and Urbanism at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Architecture. He is a member of the Indigenous Design and Planning Student Association (IDPSA), which seeks to incorporate Indigenous values within the design community through advocating for culturally informed Indigenous initiatives, programs, and curricula. Julien does work with Waterways Canada, where he provides canoe and land-based programming for Indigenous youth across Manitoba. Julien is Red River Métis with French and Ukrainian ancestry.

Robyn Adams is a Red River Métis citizen of the Manitoba Métis Federation. Her Métis family is from la Rochelle and St. Pierre-Jolys, Manitoba. Currently a dual Master of Architecture and Landscape Architecture student at the University of British Columbia, living as a guest on the unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm, Sḱwḱwú7mesh, and Selílwitulh. She is a multidisciplinary artist who enjoys fishing, medicine picking, beadwork, and making things with her hands. Robyn's work synchronously exists in the ethos of Audre Lorde's 'quality of light,' in

which she interrogates relationship with the land and water through the intricate weaving of Indigenous knowledge, ceremony, art and architecture. She seeks to create an architecture of poetic joy, alongside the matriarchs that have helped steward a sense of home for Indigenous communities through the dark times so that we may be able to forge paths into brighter futures.

Robyn Adams si t'in sitwayayn Michif di la Rivyayr Roj. Sa famiyl Michif y vyin di la Rochelle ipi St Pierre-Joly, Manitoba. Akchewelmen ayn dowb Mitres di Arkitekchur ipi in Arkitekchur di paysaj a l'University di British Columbia, Y li in inviti sur li teritwayr non sidi di li x^wməθk^{wəyəm}, Skw̄wú7mesh, Selílwitulh. Si t'in archis multidisiplinayr ki aym payshi, ki ramans di medikamen, beading, ipi fayr tot sort d'afayr avek si min. Robyn son ovraj s'inskri en synkronism dan l'ethos di la kaliti di vi d'Audre Lorde son "kaliti di vi", ivo ki interof li rapor a la tayr ipi a d'lo a travayr li weaving di knowledge otokton, di l'art ipi di l'arkitekchur di seremoni. Robyn y sharsh a kryi in arkitekchur di jway powetchik, o koti di matryark ki l'on kontribuwi a kryi in senchimen d'apartenan powr li komunoti otokton a travayr li ten sonb afin kon ni kapab trasi di shmin l'bor d'in miyewr futchur.
