

Mary Anne Barkhouse, *Dark Water, Safe Harbour*
Discipline: Sculpture

Dark Water, Safe Harbour is inspired by notable Canadian women sculptors, both past and present, such as Ellen Neel, Elizabeth Wyn Wood, Eleanor Milne and Ursula Hanes who, in turn, take their cues from the myriad and luxurious forms of the Canadian landscape and made it their own.

The piece also alludes to the complex human and natural histories of Canada, through materials and composition. The colour palette presented by the silver and purpleheart wood is reminiscent of the Two Row wampum, one of the oldest treaty documents of our nation. Made in 1613 between the Haudenosaunee and the Dutch, it is a visual depiction of an economic agreement – two canoes in parallel, neither one interfering with the other, as two trading partners worked towards a mutually beneficial goal. History has shown that events didn't turn out quite as planned.

Supporting the wetland tableau are, of course, beavers! The species that has persevered despite all odds, being fuel for the fire of wars that have led to the political landscape of today, persists with activities that *Castor canadensis* has done for millennia – crafting a rich and luxurious ecosystem that benefits all.

From these combined inspirations *Dark Water, Safe Harbour* encourages contemplation of the voices of those who have gone before as well as what the land has yet to teach us.