

Cultural and Digital Tech Virtual Exhibit

CULTURAL AND DIGITAL TECH VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *Cultural and Digital Tech Virtual Exhibit*, a dynamic digital collection showcasing artistic practices from diverse cultures. This compilation is the result of student-led projects from EDST 2120U: Culture and Digital Technologies, a course taught by Dr. Anna Rodrigues during the Fall 2023 semester at Ontario Tech University. Through immersive virtual exhibits, this Open Educational Resource (OER) invites audiences to explore cultural artistry through interactive websites featuring photos, text, and videos that provide rich insights into various artistic traditions.

The exhibits presented in this collection span a wide range of cultural expressions, from traditional dances and musical compositions, to literary contributions and visual storytelling. Each project highlights the significance of cultural heritage in the digital age, making artistic traditions more accessible to a global audience. Below is an overview of the ten virtual exhibits included in this compilation:

- **Adorable Resonance of Memories: The Final Symphony** – This exhibit immerses viewers in the final concerts of the band Adorable, offering a curated collection of photos, videos, and interviews that explore their musical legacy and influence.
- **Canadian Indigenous Music Showcase** – This exhibit connects the Seven Fires Prophecy to the evolution of Indigenous music in Canada, showcasing how musicians incorporate themes of resilience, cultural revitalization, and Indigenous identity into their work.
- **The Importance of 2SLGBTQ+ Literature** – Examining the significance of representation in literature, this exhibit delves into the cultural impact of queer author Richard Siken and the historical exclusion of 2SLGBTQ+ voices in mainstream storytelling.
- **Ko’jua: Mi’kmaq “Dance of Vigour”** – This exhibit brings attention to the traditional Mi’kmaq dance, Ko’jua, and its cultural importance to the Indigenous people of the Maritimes, aiming to enhance awareness and appreciation of this underrepresented art form.
- **Life After Losing Your Soldier** – Centered on the experiences of military widows, this exhibit provides a poignant exploration of loss, resilience, and the cultural significance of military widowhood through personal narratives and interviews.
- **Northern Portugal Cultural Dancing: Exploring the Rhythms of Tradition** – Delve into the world of Northern Portuguese folk dance through this exhibit, featuring historical context, cultural

significance, and an interview with a traditional dancer.

- **Quilted and Never Forgotten: A Virtual Exhibit** – Explore the art of quilting in Canada, from Mennonite craftsmanship to quilts that encode historical narratives, celebrating this intricate and meaningful tradition.
- **Truck Art: From the Heart** – A vibrant tribute to Pakistani Truck Art, this exhibit showcases how this unique artistic tradition merges creativity and cultural identity, transforming everyday vehicles into mobile masterpieces.

By bringing these diverse artistic practices into a virtual space, *Cultural and Digital Tech Virtual Exhibit* serves as an educational and cultural bridge, fostering deeper engagement with artistic traditions from around the world. We invite you to explore, learn, and appreciate the rich tapestry of cultural expression that has been carefully curated in this collection.

1.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As the journey towards reconciliation in Canada continues, and we strive to fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action, it is important that we continue to build relationships and engage in ongoing education.

Reconciliation and allyship is a continuous process and one that we all need to engage in fully. With this in mind, we must take every appropriate opportunity to acknowledge the traditional territory on which we reside. Acknowledging the traditional territory expresses respect, gratitude and appreciation for the Indigenous peoples who have inhabited and continue to live on the land. It is recognition of their presence both in the past and the present. Recognition helps to create a welcome and safe environment for Indigenous students, their families and community members. This publication was created and organized by students and faculty of Ontario Tech University, therefore we will be using the land acknowledgement associated with the land the university resides on.

Ontario Tech University acknowledges the lands and people of the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation. We are thankful to be welcomed on these lands in friendship. The lands we are situated on are covered under the Williams Treaties and the traditional territory of the Mississaugas, a branch of the greater Anishinaabeg Nation, including Algonquin, Ojibway, Odawa and Pottawatomi. These lands remain home to a number of Indigenous nations and people.

We acknowledge this land out of respect for the Indigenous nations who have cared for Turtle Island, also called North America, from before the arrival of settler peoples until this day. Most importantly, we remember the history of these lands has been tainted by poor treatment and a lack of friendship with the First Nations who call them home.

This history is something we are all affected by as we are all treaty people in Canada. We all have a shared history to reflect on, and each of us is affected by this history in different ways. Our past defines our present, but if we move forward as friends and allies, then it does not have to define our future.

2.

ADORABLE RESONANCE OF MEMORIES: THE FINAL SYMPHONY

By: Jamie Boisclair, Amira Skaf, Brooklyn Holmes and Laura Santaguida

Introduction

This virtual exhibit celebrates the enigmatic and influential band, Adorable. Immerse yourself in a captivating journey of Adorable's last three concerts, and insightful interviews with their photographer, who beautifully captured their final shows. This exhibit is a curated collection of photos, videos, and a collection of facts providing an in-depth exploration of Adorable's impact on the music scene. Discover the essence of their sound, the stories behind their disbandment, and the evolution of their artistry. Join us as we dig into the heart of Adorable's legacy, a celebration of a band that left an indelible mark on the world of music.

Visit site [here](#).

3.

CANADIAN INDIGENOUS MUSIC SHOWCASE

By Hilarie McIntyre, Patricia McKinney and Nick Timms

Introduction

The prophecy foretells the historical and spiritual journey of the Anishinaabe people, describing seven different phases or “fires” that represent different periods and events. While interpretations may vary among different communities, the general themes often include predictions about the arrival of Europeans, the impact of colonization, and the potential for a reawakening and renewal of Indigenous identity and spirituality.

The Seven Fires Prophecy is an oral tradition, and interpretations may vary among Anishinaabe communities. The prophecy is seen by many as a guide for understanding the historical and spiritual challenges faced by the Anishinaabe people and, by extension, other Indigenous nations. Kruse et al. (2019).

The connection between the Seven Fires Prophecy and Canadian Indigenous music is essential because Indigenous music varies among nations and communities. In the context of the Seven Fires Prophecy, these musicians use their work to explore themes related to the prophecy, such as resilience, cultural revitalization, and the ongoing journey of Indigenous peoples. Based on the prophecy’s teachings, the lyrics touch upon historical events, cultural preservation, and the hope for a positive future.

[Visit the site here.](#)

4.

THE IMPORTANCE OF 2SLGBTQ+ LITERATURE

By Carol-Anne Fletcher

Introduction

Representation in literature and media is incredibly important, as it can aid in increasing viewers' self-esteem and provide validation and support, especially if a viewer comes from a marginalized group and/or if they are young (Nadal, 2021). This is especially true when certain groups have faced distinct underrepresentation and exclusion from the majority of the stories that we see. The 2SLGBTQ+ community is one such community that has been significantly excluded from mainstream storytelling around the world and throughout history. Even today, this censorship of the 2SLGBTQ+ is prolific, considering that almost half of the books that are being banned in places like the United States feature 2SLGBTQ+ characters, themes, and authors (Monteil, 2022).

This is why authors like Richard Siken are so important, as they provide representation both as a diverse author themselves and by introducing representation into their works. Richard Siken is a disabled, queer author who writes poetry that speaks to the experience of being a member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.

This educational resource, therefore, focuses on the history of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, in regards to their inclusion or lack thereof in literature and media, the cultural significance of Richard Siken, and the work of Richard Siken.

Visit [site here](#).

5.

KO'JUA: MI'KMAQ "DANCE OF VIGOUR"

By Laurie Guindon, Kishola Levine and Valerie English

Introduction

Welcome to our virtual exhibit about the Mi'kmaq dance, Ko'jua. This learning resource is intended to give an overview of the importance of the cultural dance, Ko'jua, as we feel it is underrepresented online. We hope you enjoy learning about the impact this dance has had on the Indigenous people of the Maritimes. We encourage you to explore further the resources used to compile this exhibit and continue learning about the culture of the Mi'kmaq people.

Visit the site [here](#).

6.

LIFE AFTER LOSING YOUR SOLDIER

By Jame Whan, Marie-Ann Tremblay-Gagnon and Erika Murdaca

Introduction

Welcome,

Jamie Whan, Marie-Ann Tremblay-Gagnon, and Erika Murdaca, Ontario Tech University students, have collaborated to develop an educational resource on the hardships of losing a fallen soldier. The Military widows live in a culture that is so small and so unique. We felt that the hardships and memories that the widows carry with them are a culture that deserves a proper exhibit to highlight the pain, struggles and triumphs that they endure to honour their fallen soldiers.

When the administrative paperwork has been done after the blur of the funeral arrangements has passed, the extended friends and family have gone, the military culture they once felt a part of is forever changed, and all there is left is the silent sorrow of a widow.

As Monica Bobbit (2022) states, “You don’t just lose someone once. You lose them every day. Over and over again. For the rest of your life.”

Within this digital artifact, you are invited to expand your understanding of the history of the Canadian Armed Forces and the military culture. Furthermore, the exhibit provides a focus on military widowhood, offering an exclusive interview with an active commanding officer and another with a military widow who dedicates her time to advocating for and articulating the challenges unique to the experience of widowhood. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to hear from military widows as they articulate and expand upon their lived experiences. Complemented by a photo/video gallery, the exhibit seeks to provide a holistic perspective on the aftermath of the loss of a soldier, aiming to foster a deeper understanding of the multifaceted impact on the lives of those left behind, particularly the widows.

Visit the site [here](#).

7.

NORTHERN PORTUGAL CULTURAL DANCING: EXPLORING THE RHYTHMS OF TRADITION

By Marco Pereira, Emily McClennan and Maciej Siarkiewicz

Introduction

Welcome! Explore the intricacies of Northern Portuguese Cultural Dancing as you navigate through our virtual exhibit. Throughout the website, you will immerse yourself in this vibrant folk dance's rich culture, history, and overall significance. An interview with a traditional dancer also awaits to help shed light on even more aspects of this culture and practice. Finally, engage visually with real-life pictures to enhance your learning experience. We trust you'll gather insightful information by the end of this presentation. Enjoy!

[Click here to visit site.](#)

8.

QUILTED AND NEVER FORGOTTEN: A VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

By Patrese Brydges, Christel Rayos, Andrea Casselman and Daniel Vasquez

Introduction

On the vast canvas of Canada, a vibrant story unfolds, stitched together in the form of quilting. Quilting in Canada isn't just a hobby, it's a rich tapestry of history, tradition, and community bonding woven together. Discover the heritage and traditions of Mennonite quilting, recognized for its unique and intricate patterns. Explore the significance of heritage quilting in Canada, showcasing quilts that reflect historical events, cultural diversity, and family stories. Delve into the intriguing use of secret codes and messages hidden within quilts, including their role in Canada's history. Quilting in Canada, where craft meets culture and tradition. Discover the artistry behind each stitch, each pattern and each fabric choice, revealing the heart of Canadian craftsmanship. Quilted and Never Forgotten, join us in exploring this virtual exhibit!



One or more interactive elements has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view them online here: <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/studentsvirtualexhibit/?p=30#oembed-1>

Visit the site here.

9.

TRUCK ART - FROM THE HEART

By Naureen Rudani, Mehak Chatrath and Saleha Patel

Introduction



Discover the mesmerizing world of Pakistani Truck Art, where tradition meets creativity on the bustling highways and city streets of Pakistan. Our website is a tribute to this unique form of artistic expression that has not only adorned vehicles but has also become a symbol of the nation's cultural identity.

[Visit site here.](#)

CREDITS

We want to send a big thank you to all of the students and staff at Ontario Tech University who worked hard to create these amazing virtual exhibits, and allowed them to be compiled in this Open Educational Resource so that people can continue to learn from them outside of the classroom.

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This Open Educational Resource (OER) was collaboratively created by students in EDST 2120U at Ontario Tech University. The digital book is a celebration of cultural expression and artistic practices from around the globe, interpreted through the lens of digital technologies.

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This work is made available under an open license to encourage sharing, adaptation, and continued engagement with cultural education and digital innovation.