

News & Experiences

It's never been about the materials, or even techniques. It's the voice. It's the voice that remains authentic and true and Native and specific to whomever you are and who your people are and the stories you have to tell. —Teri Greeves, Coe Center Honorary Director

January 2020

A Note from Rachel, President, Executive Director

Where does the time go? Seems like just yesterday we were celebrating the holidays! Of course, as the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun. 2019 included a robust and rich program at the Coe with pop-up events with guest artists, potlucks, as well as the continuance of our *Hands-On Student Curatorial Program* and exhibition; the FUNCTION experience and film premiere with [Cannupa Hanska Luger](#); our annual Open House with the [Growing Thunder family](#); the [Mvskoke Canoe Paddle Project](#); and most recently the opening of "[How It Was Handed to Me](#)" [Caesar Family exhibition](#).

As always, we welcomed visitors from around the world to our hands-on open collection. Our visitors are our inspiration as I so enjoy learning from them—from you!

And, we listened! People wanted a membership program so we launched the Friends of the Coe. You can [sign up online](#) for as little as \$100! Your membership supports both our onsite and community outreach programs and creates opportunities for student internships and fellowships giving our young people professional skills they can take anywhere.

What's Happening in 2020

Stay tuned for more programs, but below are a few highlights of what is coming...

Saturday, Feb 15, 2020 at 2 pm: [Jhane Myers: A Plains Woman's Journey](#) where Myers will share her discoveries and creations



Artist Unknown (Muskoka, Ontario, Canada), *Birchbark Notebook*, c. 1900. Birchbark, thread, sweetgrass, and porcupine quills, with pencil. NA0037



Did you know...?

This incredible little journal made entirely of birchbark (cover and pages) and decorated with porcupine quills is currently serving as one of the driving inspirations

for our *Hands-On* student curators in the creation of their upcoming exhibition, opens May 8.



The diminutive and age-worn book is filled with a personal and love-filled narrative. The opening dedication tells us that the book was gifted to Helen Black from

Bloomfield, Carleton Co, New Brunswick, Canada and filled with messages from her cousins and perhaps other friends. Interior notes tells us they

made while in residency at the Coe, as well as an overview of her work across the creative arts. This project is supported in part by New Mexico Arts, a division of the Department of Cultural Affairs, and by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Friday, Feb 21, 2020 at 5:30 pm: In conjunction with the exhibition "*How it was handed to me*" *The Caesar Family Legacy* will be an **artist conversation with Adrian Standing Elk Pinnecoose, Kenneth Johnson, Samuel LaFountain, and LeOreal Wall with the Santa Fe Indian School Jewelry Students.**

This exhibition and public programs are generously sponsored by Palace Jewelers at Manitou Galleries.

May 8, 2020: Save the date for the sixth Hands-On Curatorial Program student exhibition opening. Every year is different—they research, design, and implement their own work into the exhibition and in their own words.

Again, please stay tuned for more events coming—artist Adrian Wall is planning a public program on April 18, our annual open house on August 11—and more!

However, most important, the collection is here for you to enjoy and experience, so please call ahead to schedule a private tour ...and don't forget the **First Friday Every Month, 1 to 4 pm** we are open for you. All these programs are free!

Thank you for your ongoing support and investment in the Coe.!



"*How it was handed to me*" *The Caesar Family Legacy*, at the December, 12, 2019 opening with Bruce Caesar. Photo: Cezanne Moss

were written in 1902. The messages all seem to be wishes for Helen as she leaves home—for what we don't know. *The Hands-On* students were struck by the intimacy, delicacy, and mystery of this piece. It has inspired them to build their exhibition upon the power of objects to trigger universal feelings of nostalgia across generations, cultural backgrounds, and beliefs. Everyone can relate to the desire to document life's transitions and to remember ourselves to those who are moving on.

This piece is made of Indigenous materials and was likely crafted by an Anishinaabeg, possibly Ojibwe, woman and sold to tourists in Muskoka. Perhaps Helen's cousins purchased it while visiting the popular tourist destination of Muskoka and brought it back home to New Brunswick (an almost 950 mile journey) for the sole intention of filing it with these notes. Or perhaps it took an even more circuitous path from its maker's hands to those of Helen Black.

Make sure to join the *Hands-On* student curators at their opening in May 8 to find out how this piece has worked its way into their project. Please save the date and stay tuned for more details.

Bess Murphy, PhD
Curator



Watch the FUNCTION Film Online

The film, sponsored by [La Fonda](#) and produced in partnership with [littleglobe](#), can now be viewed [online](#).

*We made plates together,
we dined together,
we broke plates together
in the act of connection and learning...
The Story continues...*

Read More about the project [here](#)

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Interested in being a community partner? Contact us at info@coeartscenter.org to talk about possibilities!

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