

# BETWEEN THE PADDLES

weaves the 'Guswhenta' or 'Two Row' wampum Treaty over the remnants of the John A. Macdonald monument in an attempt to centre the responsibilities and values that are tied to every single person in so-called Canada- Indigenous and non-indigenous. The 'Two Row' treaty is composed of five rows of alternating white and purple shells. The two purple rows symbolize vessels: a canoe which represents the Haudenosaonee peoples and a boat that represents the European settlers. The two vessels travel within the waters, the three white rows, without interfering with each other or attempting to change the other's direction. The water represents "peace, friendship and mutual respect" and, according to Sakoietta (a Haudenosaonee elder), in order to achieve this between the two vessels, this must also be achieved within each vessel.

The 'Guswhenta' is an active treaty that implicates all guests of this land in an active relationship with the Indigenous hosts of this land to sustain a dynamic and reciprocal relationship of respect. 'Between the Paddles' threads the vessels onto the commemorative columns of the monument. The tread gestures to the Wampum belt material as well as the boat analogy within Treaty. The canoe and the ship formed by the layered rope hang parallel to each other, equal in length, bearing the same purple colour, serving as an antithesis to the Canadian national identity. The spatial dynamic encapsulates the essential responsibilities of non-Indigenous life on Turtle Island. Settlers, non-indigenous people of colour, immigrants, refugees, etc. have varied and complicated histories with this land and its people. But we are all guests. The rest of the monument is engulfed in white rope, representing the waters of the life that we all share within Turtle Island. The "peace, friendship and mutual respect" shrouds the monument's remnants. It covers the emblem of Canada and the provinces surmounting the monument. It covers Macdonald Memorial bas-reliefs depicting dated and racist values towards Indigenous peoples. It covers the elevated monumental base undercutting the towering height of the structure. A gap from the white in the top half of the columns reveals the sailing vessels. The pedestal of the absent Macdonald statue lies as the only undisturbed element within the white enshrouding, between the vessels, awaiting for the fulfilment of the Treaty.

'Between the Paddles' is a temporary intervention that can be a communal experience. The twining of the thread covering the monument can serve as a healing process for locals to reconcile 'Canada's' history and present.

"Souvenir: Sir John A. Macdonald Monument." Montreal Daily Star. June 6, 1895. Courtesy of the National Library of Canada.

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