

Soul of Nations Foundation, Inc.

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

FALL 2021



INDIGENOUS INTERNATIONAL: GREEN ARCHITECTURE PROJECT PRESENTS

ARTIST CRITIQUE FROM NATALIE BALL

NOVEMBER 11, 2021, 2PM EST

MEETING LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82484872072>

Renowned Indigenous Contemporary Artist, Natalie Ball, is a proud Soul of Nations Foundation partner for the Indigenous International: Green Architecture Project and will be leading an online artist critique zoom call to review selected works of the Bolivian and Nigerian Fellows participating in the Green Architecture Project. This review will be held on Thursday, November 11th at 2:00 PM (EST) and will primarily focus on film and photography works.

Natalie Ball (*Klamath & Modoc*) is an interdisciplinary artist based in Chiloquin, Oregon. She has a Bachelor's degree with a double major in Ethnic Studies and Art from the University of Oregon. She furthered her education in New Zealand at Massey University, where she obtained her Master's degree, focusing on Indigenous Contemporary Art. Ball then relocated to her ancestral homelands to raise her three children. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally at venues including the Half Gallery, New York, NY; Vancouver Art Gallery, British Columbia; Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; Portland Art Museum, OR; Gagolian, New York, NY; Seattle Art Museum, WA; Almine Rech Gallery, Paris, France; and SculptureCenter, New York, NY. Natalie attained her MFA degree in Painting & Printmaking at Yale School of Art in 2018.

All artists are Fellowship members of the Indigenous International: Green Architecture Project and created works focus on the concept of home, sovereignty, and environmental stability, and were manifested through a one-year cross-cultural virtual exchange. Special thanks to Natalie for standing in solidarity with the Soul of Nations Foundation by helping to cultivate a limitless safe space for Black and Indigenous creatives around the world.

Indigenous International is the umbrella program created through the Soul of Nations Foundation's Indigenous Arts Expansion Initiative which is aimed to help connect Indigenous and Black communities with boundary-pushing cultural and artistic experiences around the world.

Traditional forms of Indigenous art and architecture have often been misrepresented in mainstream media and academia. The majority of Indigenous communities reside in rural areas where they oftentimes build and live in structures constructed with materials that have been obtained locally and are considered "green." These structures are created through the use of architectural techniques that have been utilized for generations. Unfortunately, a myth exists that Indigenous vernacular architecture is substandard, temporary, and for the impoverished. Indigenous communities from the Americas and Africa are continuously striving for environmental stability. However, these communities are often met with natural and governmental challenges that have threatened the traditional value of vernacular and cultural practices for residential styles of architecture.

When thinking broadly of architecture, the masterpieces of the past inevitably come to mind; buildings constructed to withstand the passage of time, that have found an ally in age, cementing themselves in the history of humanity.

The overarching objectives of the Green Architecture Project include: (1) empowering marginalized youth and communities via creative and artistic expression, (2) furthering the understanding of Indigenous cultural heritage; (3) creating an environment conducive to effective collaboration; (4) engaging in dialogue to gain a clearer understanding on what freedom and environmental stability look like while examining current setbacks; (5) utilizing culture as a vehicle to expand discourse; (6) strengthening an artistic and academic network among the participants; (7) examining historic challenges through a contemporary frame; and (8) encouraging personal growth and social awareness on a global scale.

Meeting date: Thursday, November 11th

Meeting time:
New York - 2:00 PM
Bolivia - 3:00 PM
California - 11:00 AM
Oregon - 11:00 AM
Colorado - 12:00 PM
Lagos - 8:00 PM
Italy - 8:00 PM

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