

T H E A R T S
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Brenda Draney: Drink from the river
Public Opening June 14 from 6:00-8:00 pm
Free and open to all

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



Visit, 2021, oil on canvas. Photo: Rachel Topham Photography. Courtesy of Catriona Jeffries, Vancouver

Drawing from complex memories and an evolving sense of identity, **Brenda Draney (b. 1976, member of Sawridge First Nation, Treaty 8)** paints narrative canvases marked by economical brushstrokes and expanses of white space. In *Drink from the river*, her first solo exhibition in the United States, Draney portrays scenes of daily life, along with those of singular events, that she leaves open-ended or unspecified. The cumulative portrait that emerges references a collective self that encompasses not only her own experience but that of past generations and current community members. Recurring and recognizable motifs of specific figures, pieces of furniture, or architectural features, alongside more generalized joyful or traumatic encounters leave Draney's oeuvre open to association and to individual connection.

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Brenda Draney is Cree from Sawridge First Nation, situated by the town of Slave Lake, Alberta, Canada. Her practice is based on her experiences and the relationships formed between her current hometown of Edmonton and the northern community of Slave Lake, where she was raised.

At The Arts Club of Chicago, the exhibition is co-curated by Janine Mileaf, Executive Director and Chief Curator and Jacqueline Kok, Nancy McCain & Bill Morneau Curatorial Fellow at the Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery, Toronto, Ontario. The exhibition originated at the Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery.

Since 1916, **The Arts Club of Chicago** has been a preeminent exhibitor of international art, a forum for established and emerging artists, and a celebrated venue for performers from around the world. For over 100 years, The Arts Club has opened its membership to artists and patrons of the arts, and its exhibitions to the public. At its inaugural meeting, the mission of the Club was defined as: “to encourage higher standards of art, maintain galleries for that purpose, and to promote the mutual acquaintance of art lovers and art workers.”

This exhibition has been supported by Canada Council for the Arts, Rob and Monique Sobey, and an Anonymous Donor.

Please direct press inquiries and requests for images to David Merz at communications@artsclubchicago.org or call 312-787-3997.

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Gallery Hours: Tues. – Fri. 10–6; Sat. 11–3