

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**THE DAVIS MUSEUM SHOWCASES NATIVE FILM ON STANDING ROCK
IN *SKY HOPINKA: DISLOCATION BLUES***



WELLESLEY, Mass. — The Davis Museum at Wellesley College presents *Sky Hopinka: Dislocation Blues*, a short film about the historic gathering at Standing Rock—the Indian Reservation in North Dakota where the Dakota Access Pipeline protests came together during the summer of 2016. The film blends three personal perspectives: Hopinka’s own footage from Standing Rock, along with his interviews with two protesters and residents of Spirit Camp. The exhibition, which opens on September 20, and runs through December 16, 2018, will be on view in the Joan Levine Freedman ’57 and Richard I. Freedman Gallery.

“Sky Hopinka’s portrait of the extraordinary action at Standing Rock takes an unexpected tack, offering a nuanced sense of identities within community entirely absent from the mainstream media’s coverage,” said Lisa Fischman, Ruth Gordon Shapiro ’37 Director of the Davis Museum and curator of the exhibition. “Deploying and complicating the familiar tropes of the documentary genre, Hopinka’s film gives us clues to identities and relationships that Standing Rock allowed—far beyond the familiar.”

Hopinka selected and edited clips from nine hours of footage he collected during his time at Standing Rock. He then integrated individual testimonials from two inhabitants of Spirit Camp into the film. The first—an audio interview with an older protestor, Terry Running Wild—was recorded while staying in Spirit Camp at Standing Rock, and the second is a Skype video conversation with a younger protestor, Cleo Keahna, after the evacuation of the camp. Running Wild describes the camaraderie in the camp, while Keahna reflects on the gender freedom and acceptance they felt while being there.

The resulting film is cinematically beautiful, deeply moving, and surprising in both form and content: Hopinka interweaves voice-over narratives with first-person shooter footage and the curious (and symbolic) mediated doubling that Skype makes possible; contrarily and as a mode of critique, he allows for abstraction and illegibility. *Dislocation Blues* is self-reflexive and broadening, addressing themes of resistance, Native representation and solidarity, social media, white dominance, the politics of land and water rights in the West, gender fluidity, collectivity, and nostalgia—among others.

Dislocation Blues will run continuously during the Davis Museum exhibition. The film is 16 minutes and 57 seconds in length.

The Artist

Sky Hopinka (Ho-Chunk/Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians) makes work that “centers around personal positions of homeland and landscape, designs of language and facets of culture contained within, and the play between the accessibility of the known and the unknowable.” His short film, *Dislocation Blues*, presents an alternative—what the artist calls “an incomplete and imperfect portrait of reflections”—to mainstream media representations of communities and conditions at Standing Rock—the Indian Reservation in North Dakota where the Dakota Access Pipeline protests, #NODAPL, coalesced during the summer of 2016.

Sky Hopinka (b. 1984) received his BA from Portland State University in Liberal Arts and his MFA in Film, Video, Animation, and New Genres from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In Portland, he studied and taught chinuk wawa, a language indigenous to the Lower Columbia River Basin. His work has played at various festivals including ImagineNATIVE Media + Arts Festival, Images Festival, Courtisane Festival, Ann Arbor Film Festival, American Indian Film Festival, Sundance Film Festival, Antimatter Film Festival, Chicago Underground Film Festival, FLEXfest, and the LA Film Festival. Hopinka is a 2018-2019 Radcliffe-Harvard Film Study Center Fellow.

Sky Hopinka: Dislocation Blues is presented at the Davis Museum with generous support from The Mildred Cooper Glimcher '61 Endowed Fund.



Video Data Bank

EXHIBITION-RELATED EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING

Fall Opening Celebrations

Thursday, September 20

5:30 p.m., Collins Cinema

Artist's Talk: Christiane Baumgartner

6:30 - 9 p.m., Davis Lobby

Opening Reception

6:45 p.m., Davis Lobby and Galleries

Welcome Remarks

The Davis Museum will host a reception for the opening of the Fall 2018 exhibitions—including five special installations that bring spectacular energy and creative artistic innovation to the Wellesley College campus. German artist Christiane Baumgartner will be in attendance for the debut of *Another Country*, her first major US museum solo exhibition. In addition, the second “Windows Invitational” project, featuring Associate Professor Daniela Rivera’s *Fragmentos para una historia del olvido/Fragments for a history of displacement*; *Sky Hopinka: Dislocation Blues*; *Jacob Lawrence: The Legend of John Brown*; and *A Critical Eye: James Gillray and the Art of Satire*, along with rotations that refresh the permanent collections galleries, will be on view.

Artist's Talk: Sky Hopinka

Thursday, October 11

4-5:30 p.m.

Davis Lobby. Reception to follow.

Sky Hopinka joins Lisa Fischman, Ruth Gordon Shapiro '37 Director of the Davis Museum, for a presentation and discussion on the artist's practice and the many short films, including *Dislocation Blues*, that have brought him such distinction. Hopinka is a 2018-2019 Radcliffe-Harvard Film Study Center Fellow.

ABOUT THE DAVIS MUSEUM

One of the oldest and most acclaimed academic fine arts museums in the United States, the Davis Museum is a vital force in the intellectual, pedagogical, and social life of Wellesley College. It seeks to create an environment that encourages visual literacy, inspires new ideas, and fosters involvement with the arts both within the College and the larger community.



Generous Support to the Davis Museum is provided by Massachusetts Cultural Council.

ABOUT WELLESLEY COLLEGE AND THE ARTS

The Wellesley College arts curriculum and the highly acclaimed Davis Museum are integral components of the College’s liberal arts education. Departments and programs from across the campus enliven the community with world-class programming—classical and popular music, visual arts, theatre, dance, author readings, symposia, and lectures by some of today’s leading artists and creative thinkers—most of which are free and open to the public.

Since 1875, Wellesley College has been the preeminent liberal arts college for women. Known for its intellectual rigor and its remarkable track record for the cultivation of women leaders in every arena, Wellesley—only 12 miles from Boston—is home to some 2,400 undergraduates from 49 states and 58 countries.

Images:

Sky Hopinka (Ho-Chunk/Pechanga)

Dislocation Blues, 2017

Color, HD video, 16:57 min.

Courtesy the artist and Video Data Bank, Chicago

Artwork and photo Credit: Courtesy the artist and Video Data Bank, Chicago

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High-resolution images and interviews available upon request.