



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Kitchener-Waterloo Métis Artist Wins Inaugural CSDA/CCAD John Fleming Award**

**TORONTO (September 8, 2023)** – The Canadian Society of Decorative Arts/Cercle canadien des arts décoratifs (CSDA/CCAD) today, at its Annual General Meeting, announced that Kitchener-Waterloo Métis artist, Cheyenne Mapplebeck, is the recipient of the first-ever John Fleming Award in Decorative Arts Writing. Created in 2022, this monetary prize honours the late Canadian scholar and writer, John Fleming, and his lasting contribution to decorative arts education.

“On behalf of the CSDA/CCAD Board of Directors, I would like to congratulate this year’s winner, Cheyenne Mapplebeck, for her outstanding submission.” says CSDA/CCAD Board Chair, Susan Golets. “Cheyenne’s work addresses some significant ideas on the importance of diversity and representation in art, and offers a unique perspective on how BIPOC artists continue to challenge colonial influence in gallery spaces through their contemporary practices.”

Mapplebeck is a Métis artist, writer, and curator living and working in Kitchener-Waterloo. A recent BFA program graduate from The University of Waterloo, she received the Curator’s Choice Award for her thesis project, *Red Herring*, which examines the impacts of late-stage capitalism. As gallery coordinator at The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery, she has written a variety of curatorial essays featured in exhibition catalogues, such as *Voices* (2022) and *The Decorated Surface* (2023). Through her work, she aims to expand on the transformative power of art and visual culture.

Mapplebeck’s winning submission, *Decolonizing Museum Spaces: Decorative Art as a Vessel for Disruption*, will be featured in the upcoming Fall/Winter issue of *Ornamentum*, CSDA/CCAD’s decorative arts and design magazine. “As an emerging writer and artist, it is such an honour to have my work validated through this award,” explains Mapplebeck. “The Canadian Clay & Glass Gallery houses a significant collection of *Ornamentum* magazines. It feels surreal that my writing will now be part of these archives, alongside the many talented voices featured in the magazine over the years.”

Golets confirms this award will be offered annually, as a way of promoting and recognizing excellence in original magazine writing on decorative arts in Canada. Submissions are evaluated by a geographically-representative jury of decorative arts professionals, based on originality of the subject or approach, contribution to the field of decorative arts in Canada, and writing style.

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### **About John A. Fleming**

John A. Fleming was Professor Emeritus of the French, Museum Studies, and Comparative Literature departments at the University of Toronto. He was also a longtime CSDA/CCAD Board member, and editor and publisher of *Ornamentum*. His academic research and publications have earned multiple awards, and his influence in the field of decorative arts in Canada is substantial.

### **About CSDA/CCAD**

Created in 1981, the Canadian Society of Decorative Arts/Cercle canadien des arts décoratifs is a national charitable organization that seeks to make decorative arts and design in Canada accessible to all people through education, events, community partnerships, and volunteer opportunities.

**[csda-ccad.org](http://csda-ccad.org)**

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