

## CALGARY & ALBERTA PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE COUNT

Based on historical Blackfoot petroglyphs, winter counts, story and warrior robes. Calgary & Alberta Past, Present, Future count reimagines the Blackfoot language of pictographs. These 41 steel pictographs and 3 sculptures represent a snapshot in time, yet within each pictogram, a complete history of that happening can be described, and lead into other stories of your relationship to them, now and future time. One method of tracking time was the spiral, it can be found on many robes.

In Calgary & Alberta Past, Present, Future Count we start in the middle and spiral outwards, each pictogram getting progressively larger until it moves off the wall and onto the floor, a play with the continuum of time and space. Pictographs can mean many things to people, they can trigger memories, memories lead to stories, stories that can ignite our imaginations and remember our past. They can be a meeting place where our common humanity shapes the languages we see, hear, feel, speak and draw. Truly here we see pictograph language as art.



### Natosi

The Sun, the universe, the great mystery. The centre of all things, known and unknown.



### Napi

Old Man. Blackfoot creator and trickster character. His stories tell of Blackfoot creation, life, and ways of being.



### Gipitaki

Old Woman. Often accompanies Old Man in Blackfoot ways of being. She reflects balance to Napi's unpredictable ways.



### Otter

One of Napi's companions on the raft in the creation stories. Otter dove down and came back with nothing. Considered one of the Blackfoot animal totems.



### Beaver

One of Napi's companions on the raft in the creation stories. Beaver also dove down and came up with nothing. Considered one of the Blackfoot animal totems.



### Loon

One of Napi's companions on the raft in the creation stories. Loon also dove down and came up with nothing. Considered one of the Blackfoot animal totems.



### Muskrat

One of Napi's companions on the raft in the creation stories. Muskrat dove down and came up with clay with which Napi made the land. Considered one of the Blackfoot animal totems.



### Natosi

These 4 bison represent the time before European contact when bison were bountiful and filled their landscapes. For the Blackfoot they were central to all aspects of being. Shelter, Clothing, Tools, Food, Medicine, and Spiritual Life.



### Horse Culture

Representing the introduction of the horse to North America, and the Blackfoot mastery of this relationship.



### Sky Beings

Honouring and respecting the forces of nature specifically the forces of the sky, wind, thunder, rain, snow, stars, aurora borealis, and more.



### Signing of the Treaties

Representing the signing of Treaty 7. The peace pipe crossing the tomahawk indicates peaceful coexistence, living together without conflict.



### Siksika Nation

Existing pictographic symbol for the Siksika Nation.



### Stoney Nakota Nation

Existing symbol for the Stoney Nakota Nation.



### Kainai Nation

Existing symbol for the Kainai Nation.



### Tsuu T'ina Nation

Existing symbol for the Tsuu T'ina Nation.



### Piikani Nation

Existing symbol for the Piikani Nation NOTE: Missing breath in front of mouth.



### The English

First contact, the cross represents the British Crown.



### Fort Calgary



### Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Historically the Mounties were depicted with pointed or triangular shaped heads, referencing the pickelhaube on the top of their helmet.



### Metis Nation

Artist interpretation of the Metis Nation, consistent with historic tribal identifiers.



### The Railway

The National Dream, linking the colonies across Canada.



### Residential School

1870-1990's. 150,000 Indian, Inuit and Metis students attend across time.



### Cattle

The Introduction of Agriculture and Cattle across the Great Plains.



### Horse

The Introduction of Agriculture and Horses across the Great Plains.



### Agriculture and Farming

The replacement of natural prairie landscape with monocultural farming practices.



### Confederation of Canada



### Resource Extraction

Referencing Oil, gas, mineral, and other resource extraction processes.



### Automobile

1901, the first automobile arrives in Alberta. Evolution of the Horse Culture, leading to pavement and road and transportation systems.



### Airplane

1911, the first aircraft arrives in Alberta.



### Calgary Stampede

The Greatest Outdoor Show on earth! The beginnings, Blackfoot participation.



### First World War, The Crash and Depression, The Second World War

The effect of these events world wide and the Calgary and Alberta connections.



### Humans in Outer Space

An arrow into the sky, the knowledge that humans have reached space. 1961.



### The Husky Tower

Now known as the Calgary Tower, this symbol was once the tallest building in Calgary. Opened in 1968, I remember going to Calgary from the east, the first thing we would see was the Husky Tower, it was thrilling.



### 1988 Olympic Games

An interpretation of the Calgary Olympic Games in 1988. The large tipi, the cauldron, the mountains, foothills and Olympic rings.



### Two Spirit Persons

A new interpretation of Two Spirited people, the bridge, the gender fluidity, the spirits, the heart.



### The Wide World Web

We are caught in a web, a world wide web. What does it mean as we become further entangled? What does the binary code mean?



### Black Snake

The Prairie Bull Snake, can be mistaken for a rattlesnake, or look like a black shadow in the grass. The Lakota prophesy about the black snake refers to the pipelines snaking across the country. We are at a time of reflection, urgency and action.



### Changing Environment

Also known as Earth Emergency, the changing environment is upon us, we will either adapt or perish. Mother earth speaks to us, are we listening? What does the future hold?



### A New Hope

Learn from the little ones; observe, learn, mimic, cooperate, defend and nurture. Nature will teach us ways of seeing the world around us. Our future depends on it.



### The Eagle

A symbol of honour, power and hope into the future. The eagle holds the 7 generations in its heart.



### The Universal Tipi

From beneath the earth, to the land and water, foothills and mountains, the earth, cosmic waves, a part of the Universe, our sun hurtling through space, planets trailing into the Great Mystery, Pleiades and Big Dipper guiding the way. We are all one in the Great Mystery.



### Bison Being

The return of the Bison to the Great Plains, The Buffalo Treaty, as signers, we have the honour and privilege to bring back the bison to the Great Plains. The Bison is in all of us, make room for the Bison. What does the future hold?