

INSURGENCE RESURGENCE



BARRY ACE



Mino-bimsadizhaiin
(The Way of the Good Life)
2011

Mino-bimsadizhaiin (The Way of the Good Life) is based on Anishinaabemowin and conceptions of cultural knowledge and life-ways embracing spiritual, cultural, linguistic thought and expression as integral attributes of being. The artwork consists of two complete sets of men and women's Anishinaabe regalia which have been fused with the present. Glass beads are juxtaposed against traditional electronic components (transistors, resistors, and light emitting diodes) as a rejection of preconceived notions and stereotypes of indigenous cultures as static, frozen, and anthropological constructs. The work is also a deconstructed and decentered representation of culture that reveals how Anishinaabeg of the Great Lakes region have always embraced the introduction of new technologies such as gun belts and now electronic components and digital technology infusing their with distinct and recognizable Anishinaabe aesthetics.

My contemporary artistic practice examines and draws inspiration from multiple facets of Anishinaabe culture. I create objects and imagery that utilize multi-distinct cultural forms and motifs, and I intentionally disrupt the reading of their works through the introduction of other elements, endeavouring to reflect the convergence of the traditional and the contemporary.



