



The Research Behind Cherry Meyer's Banner

Project: Anishinaabe Art

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Research Questions

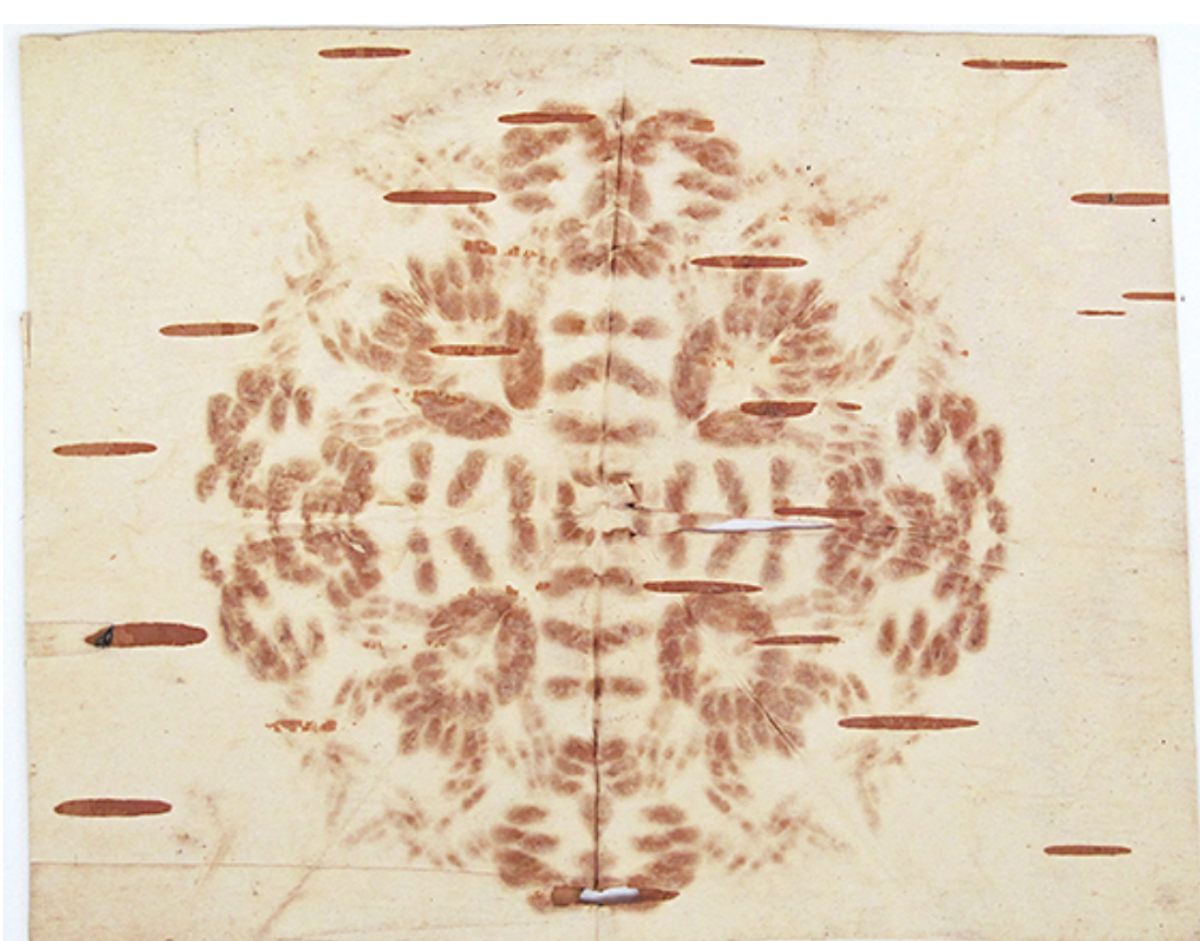
- Identify prominent Anishinaabe art styles from the past to the present.
- How to incorporate the cultural practices and customs of the Anishinaabek?
- What materials did the Anishinaabek use?
- How to translate symbols of Anishinaabe art styles to the context of the conference?

Inspired By

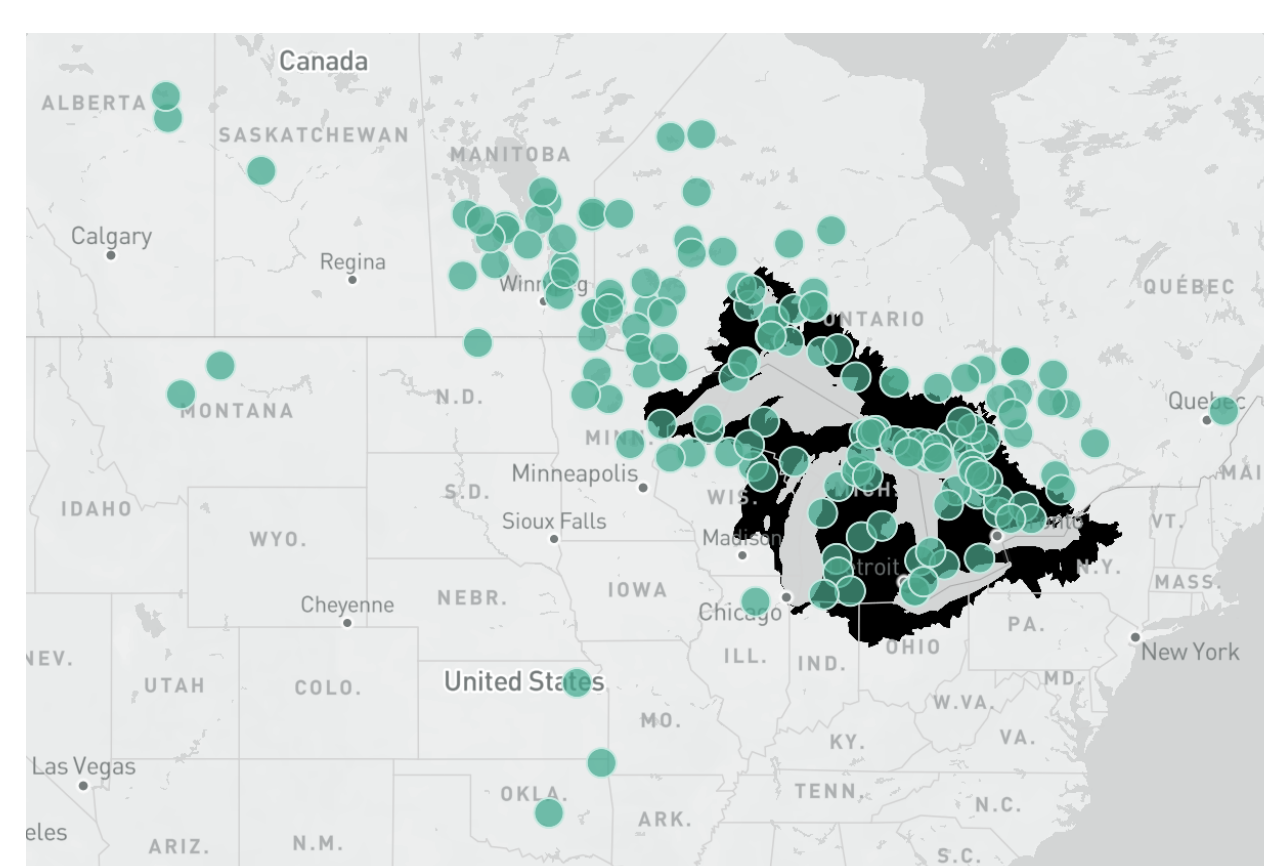
- My background (SCIT tribal member, and Anishinaabe artist)
- Museum collections online and in-person
- Interviews with Anishinaabe artists around Michigan
- Articles & documents (Museum catalogues)
- Websites of the 12 federally recognized tribal nations in Michigan and other Anishinaabe nations outside of Michigan
- Social Media (Instagram, Facebook)

Who are the Anishinaabek?

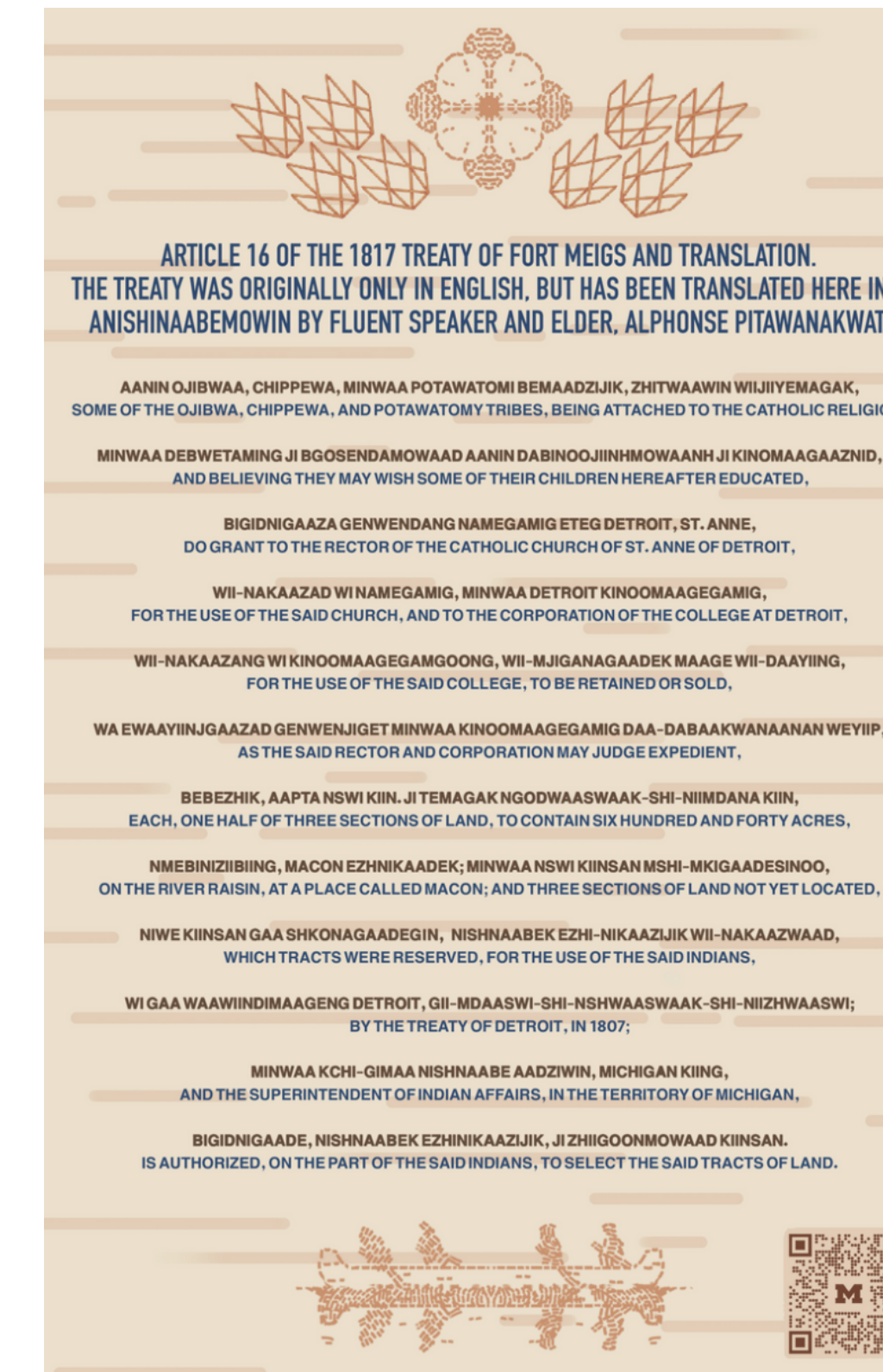
- Anishinaabek means 'Original people' in Anishinaabemowin
- Consist of Tribal Nations Ojibwe, Odawa, and Bodewadmi
- The three Tribal nations created the Three Fires Alliance or People of the Three Fires within the Great Lakes Region
- Today, there are 12 Federally Recognized Tribes in Michigan
- Emphasize generational teaching
- The Anishinaabek span from Alberta to Quebec to as far south as Oklahoma



Birchbark biting
(McCord Stewart Museum, 2022.
<https://www.musee-mccord-stewart.ca/en/blog/embellishing-birchbark/>)



Map of recognized Anishinaabek territories today
(Anishinaabewakiing- Anishinaabe Territories, <https://ojibwe.net/nations-map/>)



Final product of the posters posted around the Diag
For **More Information** scan the QR codes above

v Before and After ^

- Art by Kaya Beaudoin
- The research provided insight for Kaya's designs, such as:
 - Background
 - Anishinaabe art styles
 - Colors (natural dyes used during pre-contact era)



Close up of items used on the posters and banners

Key Components Used

- **Birch Bark** was used to symbolize the cultural practice of ascribing information on birchbark and the art of birchbark biting.
- **Quillwork** is a pre-contact art form of the Anishinaabek. Quillwork was used for decorating, clothing, bags, mokuks and moccasins. Beading is a modern version of quillwork.
- **Weaving** also dates back to pre-contact. Weaving encases nettle fiber bags/pouches, yarn, beaded garters, and mats of various textiles.
- **Maple leaves** symbolize the cultural practices of the Anishinaabe. It is also a common Anishinaabe identifier.
- **Braided border** is used to symbolize the Three Fires alliance. Birchbark is used to symbolize the keepers of traditions, the Ojibwe. The finger woven motif is used to depict fire of the keepers of the fire, Bodewadmi. Lastly, the beads depicted people on the canoe, the keepers of trade, the Odawa.



Citizen Potawatomi Band Bandler Bag ("Floral Influences in Regalia Spans Time and Personalities", 2019.
<https://www.potawatomi.org/blog/2019/10/30/floral-influence-in-regalia-spans-time-and-personalities/>)

Conclusion

- This Project highlights the importance of Anishinaabe **representation** around campus.
- Create **awareness** of who the Anishinaabe are and our culture and customs
- **Reparation** for the University of Michigan's historical **erasure and exclusion** of the Anishinaabe

References

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Clifton, James, Cornell, George, and McClurken, James, *People of the Three Fires: The Ottawa, Potawatomi and Ojibway of Michigan*, Michigan Indian Press Grand Rapids Inter-Tribal Council, 1986.
Kata, Sonia, *Embellishing Birchbark: All Bark, and Some Bite*, McCord Stewart Museum, 2022.
David W., Penney, et al., *Before and After the Horizon: Anishinaabe Artists of the Great Lakes*, Smithsonian Books, 2013.