



Kent Monkman – Clip 15

Humour and the reversal of power

I think my strongest support has always come out of the aboriginal community...I think specifically with this work aboriginal people really respond to the sense of humour that's in the work. I think they just appreciate the twist. They appreciate the fun, they appreciate the reversal of power. They completely relate to the undermining of constructed stereotypes of historical...like the appropriation of land. All of these ideas and aspects of colonization are really built into these paintings. These paintings really represent a whole period of colonialization. Because I'm undermining the original work, using these sexual scenarios, I think there's an appreciation for that dismantling, of taking the power away a bit from the original work and I think partly also because they're still sort of looked at as strong, you know, ethnographic...they have this ethnographic importance, or ethnological accuracy. I think that there's an appreciation just for the humour, I think most importantly.

