



*Kent Monkman - Clip 3*

## Questioning the Colonial eye

My most current artistic practice has been influenced by 19<sup>th</sup> century painting specifically North American 19<sup>th</sup> century work. It stemmed from this investigation of some themes in my work that was related to the impact of Christianity and colonization on the sexuality of aboriginal people and that investigation led me into the history of art in North America, specifically the landscape painting genre. And there was something about that work that seemed profound, the ideology, the Christian ideology that was behind the work of these painters from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, specifically American painters. But there was also Paul Kane in Canada. There was this sense of the grandiose landscape, the romantic landscape but some of these paintings were also very biblical in nature. They had a very sort of Christian kind of appeal to them, the way that the clouds were painted and so for me they just seem to really define that colonial experience, the colonial eye on native people but also on the land. They seemed to express this ideology of manifest destiny and, you know, God's blessing for the European to come and take the land and so they really resonated on that level. So when I really started, you know studying the work and looking at it, it worked quite well to move in that direction with my own work based on the themes of Christianity and colonization.

