



Kent Monkman - Clip 5

Sexuality and colonialism

I was raised in a Christian home and it has had a profound effect on me as an artist and it certainly has influenced my work in the past five years. I think a lot of my work in the past five years has really related to my personal experience, you know, coming out of a Christian family. But I realized how wide and how profound this effect of Christianity has been on aboriginal people and once I started really dealing with my own sexuality I realized that there were so many other people, aboriginal people who have had much worse experiences as a result of the church, residential schools and it became a huge interest to me. It's a huge topic because I realized that sexuality has been a huge part of the process of colonization, the sexuality of aboriginal people has been impacted and it's not something that is talked about very much and I guess because of my upbringing and having to deal with my own sexuality within my own sort of Christian background it became something important to me personally as well although I think it's so...common in aboriginal communities. I knew that many people would respond to it and understand what I was dealing with in my own work. But, you know, through this process of studying, you know, the Cree syllabics and the history and emergence of the Cree syllabics in my last series and then following that sort of thematic arc up into this current body of work, the moral landscape, it just took me on this

journey of, you know, realizing the many different ways that Christianity has impacted aboriginal people for better or for worse.

