

# Mindful Mending

# Spinning a Yarn

**How do the artists Négar and David use their art to talk about difficult things that happened?**

David paints the Métis sash as a noose to talk about a Métis leader who was killed by the Canadian



*Our Noose, David Garneau, 2023.*

government. Négar unravels a rope used for executions in Iran and knits it into a soft scarf. One artwork turns a piece of clothing into something that can hurt, while the other changes something scary into something warm and safe.

Both stories show how trying to stand up for what is right can get you in trouble. This is still important today.

**What does the Métis sash mean in David's paintings?**

The Métis sash is a colorful belt that Métis people make and wear. Each color means something, like bravery or remembering hard times, telling the story of the family or person who wears it.

David is a Métis artist. He paints the Métis sash but changes it into other things or puts it next to surprising objects. By doing this, David helps people see that Métis identity can change and grow over time. His art shows that culture is not just about the past, but also about new ideas and new stories. David's paintings make the sash's story bigger, showing creativity and the journey of the Métis people.

## QR code

view the QR code through your smartphone camera to listen to the Audio Tour for this exhibition.



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PLAIN ENGLISH

# Self-guided tour

*The Thread of the Wish*



*Mudbrick Relic, Adrian Golban, 2021.*

Négar Devine-Tajgardan,  
Lara Felsing, Adrian  
Golban, & David Garneau  
curated by Sandee Moore  
January 30 – March 28

# AGR

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# Family Tatters

**Négar is an artist from Iran. How does she tell us about her uncle who died before she was born?**

Négar cuts up and pulls apart a photo of her uncle, who was killed in Iran a long time ago. His photo was hidden behind another picture in her family's photo album. Why might a family want to hide a photo of someone who is gone?

Négar makes his photo very small and weaves it into fabric with thread, or prints it on cloth and pulls out some threads so it looks like hair. She weaves the photo pieces into cloth that looks like fabric patterns from Iran. This helps her remember her uncle and feel close to her family's history.

Do you think Négar's art hides the picture like her family did?



Uncle Mahmood (detail), Négar Devine-Tajgardan, 2023-2025.

# Blanket Statement

**Do you know what a 'Blanket Ceremony' is?**

The Métis artist Lara called one of her artworks *Blanket Ceremony for the Forest*. Giving a blanket as a gift is sacred in many Indigenous cultures. It can be given to someone who has done great things, to protect someone who is going through a change (like graduating or becoming a parent), or to show respect to an important person.

Lara wrapped blankets around burned tree trunks after wildfires. The blankets were made from sheets she used when she had to leave her home because of the fire, which she dyed with forest plants. She also used old heavy wool blankets—which were made to protect people in emergencies—as part of her artwork teach us about her land, and the things that have happened to it.

Why would Lara do this ceremony for trees?

(background image: *Blanket Ceremony for the Forest* (detail), Lara Felsing, 2023.



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# Everything Old is New Again

**How does Adrian show Romanian traditions in his art, and how does he make them different?**

An artist named Adrian shows the skills and traditions from his home country, Romania, in his art. He uses simple things, like making walls from sticks and mud or weaving rugs from old clothes. These ways of making things have been taught in his family for many years. Adrian respects his family's history and likes to use what he has to create art. Adrian also shows how hard it is to start a new life in Canada. He changes the old ways of making things and uses new materials. For example, he makes a tapestry out of clay instead of soft fabric. The clay tapestry looks like it should be warm and soft, but it is hard and easy to break. This is like Adrian's journey—he misses the comfort of his old home and has to be strong in a new place. His art shows both his love for his old traditions and the tough parts of making a new life.