

*On the occasion of the 53rd Biennale di Venezia:*

**RENDEZVOUSED: TO GO SOMEWHERE**

Exhibit opening June 6<sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM

Ca' Foscari University, Department of European and Postcolonial Studies,  
Palazzo Cosulich, Zattere Dorsoduro, 1405 Venice

**FEATURING INDIGENOUS ARTISTS ANDREA CARLSON AND TOM JONES**

Nancy Marie Mithlo, Curator - Elisabetta Frasca, Project Director

Film premiere June 5<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM Casa del Cinema, Salizada San Stae, Venice

Symposium June 9<sup>th</sup> 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM Ca' Foscari University

The exhibit "Rendezvoused" (open June 6 to June 30<sup>th</sup>) concerns the transfer of cultural capital and examines the significance of restoration from varied perspectives. Historically a term used in the American frontier, the rendezvous today is a contemporary social movement in which Native and non-Native people camp outdoors and perform as historical personas, dressed in period costume. This fantasy of lifestyles and imagined characteristics is romantically conceived and portrayed, with a blurring of fiction and reality. "Rendezvoused" observes how invented histories work in the context of performance and in the circulation of material culture.

Andrea Carlson's mixed media works on paper cite the exchange of ideas, memories and stories through objects and material culture that parallels the rendezvous of the original fur-trade era. She states, "I am interested in cultural territories, where distinctions become blurred and perceptions of authenticity are brought into question." Carlson references the idea of cannibalism used in film and literature as a sensational metaphor for cultural consumption, assimilation and fantasy. Tom Jones, a Professor of Photography at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, photographed the rendezvous phenomenon in the original homeland of his tribe, the Ho Chunk Nation, which encompasses Wisconsin, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota, U.S.A. His photo narratives expose the reinterpretation of historical images with an emphasis on conventional posing practices. Curator Nancy Marie Mithlo, Assistant Professor of Art History and American Indian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has exhibited indigenous arts at the Biennale since 1999 with the assistance of Italian scholar Elisabetta Frasca.

This event is made possible through the generous support of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the Institute of American Indian Arts, the International Conference on the Arts in Society, Department of European and Postcolonial Studies, Cà Foscari University, Venice, Casa del Cinema, Venice . and the City of Venice.

For details in Venice please contact: Studio dal Ponte at: [studiodalponte@libero.it](mailto:studiodalponte@libero.it)  
tel. (041) 523-9315.

Web: <http://mikinaak.com> <http://tomjoneshochunk.com> [www.nancymariemithlo.com](http://www.nancymariemithlo.com)