

Talking Earth

by Kaha:wi Dance Theatre

Free Public Performances

Tuesday June 20 &
Wednesday June 21, 2023

9:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Gardiner Museum
Linda Frum & Howard Sokolowski Plaza

There will be a Q&A following the performance on June 21

Free. No registration required

[Learn More](#)

Honouring National Indigenous Peoples Day, join us for a free public performance by multidisciplinary artist Tekaronhiákhwa / Santee Smith and Semiah Smith, taking place on our plaza and highlighting the permanent public sculpture Talking Earth. The performance is standing room only, though some chairs will be available for those who need them. Please note that the performance takes place outdoors and will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather. Cancellations will be communicated on our website and social media.

About Talking Earth

Commissioned by the Gardiner Museum as part of ArtworxTO: Toronto's Year of Public Art 2021-2022, *Talking Earth* is a permanent public artwork installed at the entrance to the Museum. The etched ceramic sculpture is inspired by a Rotinohnsyonni four-cornered earthen pottery vessel. It is fractured and partially reconstructed, with light shining through the cracks between the broken shards. The vessel symbolizes the disruption and trauma caused by colonization, including the legacy of the residential school system, assimilative policies imposed on womxn, and the crisis of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Womxn and Girls. Moving toward intactness, the vessel evokes the process of re-assembling culture, memory, and ancestral knowledge.

Generously supported by

The Barry and Laurie Green Charitable Trust
Lindy Green Family Foundation



The performances are co-produced by Kaha:wi Dance Theatre, generously supported by: Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council and Toronto Arts Council

Photo: Talking Earth by Kaha:wi Dance Theatre/Santee Smith; Photographer: Vladimir Kanic

About SANTEE SMITH / TEKARONHIÁHKWA

Santee is a multidisciplinary artist from the Kahnien'kehàka Nation, Turtle Clan, Ohswé:ken/Six Nations of the Grand River. She trained at Canada's National Ballet School and completed Physical Education and Psychology degrees from McMaster University and a M.A. in Dance from York University. Her debut work *Kaha:wi* – a family creation story premiered in 2004 and one year later she founded Kaha:wi Dance Theatre which has grown into an internationally renowned company based in Six Nations and Tkarón:to'/Toronto. Santee's artistic work speaks about identity, Indigenous narratives, creative process, and representation.



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