**Reclaiming Identity: A State of Dignity - an Installation by Celina Ritter**

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For many Aboriginals in North America, the year 1992 marked a victory celebration to our continued survival in light of 500 years of colonization.By asserting, proclaiming and authorizing our complex identities, defending our lands and reclaiming lost territories - historical, personal and political - many of us re-discovered and recovered ourselves.

By the time I met Celina Ritter that same year, she was already halfway towards a Masters degree in painting at Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, having already graduated from Alberta College of Art the year before. I was settling into my role as Programming Coordinator at TRUCK. I can’t remember exactly how Celina and I originally met - in those days there weren’t many native artists or musicians hanging around the art forts. There were a select few that were already established in the art canon complete with reviews, solo exhibitions and commercial gallery representation - Celina’s own uncle, the esteemed Alex Janvier was part of that strata…

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