

T H E P O L Y G O N

March 13, 2019

For immediate release

Direct, authoritative and empowering, images of a Squamish Nation youth basketball team by photojournalist Alana Paterson give voice to an emerging generation of Indigenous women.



Skwxwú7mesh Nation Basketball: Photographs by Alana Paterson opens at The Polygon Gallery Saturday, April 13, produced in collaboration with the Capture Photography Festival.

Over the past few years, BC-based photojournalist Alana Paterson has become deeply invested in gender inequality and women's civil liberties. Paterson's recent works focus on women's empowerment through sport, particularly young women at the beginning of their careers. Currently, women represent only 7% of sportspeople seen, heard, or read about in the media, and only 4% of sports coverage focuses primarily on women. Paterson's images shed light on this disparity while celebrating women's strength and resilience in a male-dominated field.

For her most recent project, *Skwxwú7mesh Nation Basketball* (2018), Paterson was invited to shoot the young women's half of the Junior All Native Basketball Tournament (JANT), held in Vancouver in 2018. The tournament is made up of over 83 teams from 50 nations. JANT serves to empower its team members and reinforce that they are strong, resilient young people and talented athletes.

After working closely with the team over the past year, the photographer has captured each team member's empowered energy, countering identities weighted with the dark history of colonization. Paterson's images work to empower young Indigenous women, in light of the dark history of colonization and continuing racism. The project reveals the sense of strength, perseverance, and passion for which Indigenous "Warrior Women" are renowned.

Alana Paterson is a North Vancouver-based photographer. Her work has been featured in numerous magazines and publications, and her photojournalism has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Star*. Paterson was named one of Magenta Foundation's top emerging photographers in 2018. *Skwxwú7mesh Nation Basketball* marks her first solo exhibition.

Images from Paterson's series will also be on view at the Stadium-Chinatown Station on the Skytrain in Vancouver as part of the Capture Photography Festival, until 2020.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, April 13 at 1pm: Opening Reception

Every Saturday at 2pm: Weekly exhibition tours



Media Contact

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Listing Information

The Polygon Gallery in collaboration with Capture Photography Festival presents *Skwxwú7mesh Nation Basketball: Photographs by Alana Paterson*. Direct, authoritative and empowering, these photographs give a voice to an emerging generation of Indigenous women. Admission is always by donation.

Exhibition Dates: April 13 - May 12, 2019

Venue: The Polygon Gallery, 101 Carrie Cates Court, North Vancouver BC, V7M 3J4

Hours: Open Tues - Sun, 10am - 5pm. Closed Mondays.

Website: thepolygon.ca/exhibition/alana-paterson

Social Media

The Polygon Gallery

Facebook: [thepolygongallery](https://www.facebook.com/thepolygongallery).

Twitter: [@_ThePolygon](https://twitter.com/_ThePolygon)

Instagram: [@thepolygongallery](https://www.instagram.com/thepolygongallery).

Hashtags: #ThePolygon #CapturePhotoFest2019 #AlanaPaterson

About The Polygon Gallery

Known as Presentation House Gallery for four decades, The Polygon Gallery is considered one of Canada's most internationally acclaimed public art galleries. With a mandate to exhibit and disseminate photography and media art, the Gallery emphasizes contemporary Canadian artists within a context of historical and international art.

Nearly 30 years in the making, The Polygon Gallery's new purpose-built home, which opened its doors on November 18, 2017, is a landmark building situated on North Vancouver's waterfront designed by British Columbia's internationally lauded architectural firm, Patkau Architects, for the presentation of the preeminent art form of our age.

Admission is always by donation, courtesy of BMO Financial Group.

About Capture Photography Festival

Capture Photography Festival is devoted to presenting the most compelling lens-based art from local and international artists, the largest festival of its kind in Western Canada. From April 3–30, Capture 2019 will feature approximately 80 participating artists across 60+ galleries and venues, alongside an extensive Public Art Program, a youth-oriented Learning Program, and an Events Program that spans tours, films, artist talks, and community events.



Images: Alana Paterson, from the series *Skwxwú7mesh Nation Basketball*, 2018

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