A new look at our entangled worlds

This subtle exhibition asks us to deepen our understanding of the interaction between white and native culture. Sarah Milroy writes.

"It's been a while since we've seen a large group exhibition of contemporary Aboriginal art in a Canadian museum. Back in 1999, there were two landmark shows shown, Land, Law, and Treaty (Museum of Civilization), and Indigenous (the National Museum of Civilization). Then, in 2004, curator Grand Mother's Reference to the National Museum of Civilization. The last of the group exhibitions to be seen was the 2013 show about Aboriginal culture that was held over two intervening years, updating us on a few artists who are already well known, as well as introducing us to some newcomers.

Where the earlier shows were sprawling, eclectic, and often fiercely emotional statements of the presence and vitality of contemporary Aboriginal art, Shapellsmith is subtle, subtle and perhaps more in the mood of a particular and powerful moment in history. The show is not a typical permanent exhibition in a museum, but a group exhibition that can be seen anywhere. It seems to be a show that was put together by the National Museum of Civilization, with the help of artists and策(art)ers, to present a collection of new and emerging artists. The show is called "A New Look at Our Entangled Worlds," and it features works by 20 artists from across Canada, including paintings, sculptures, and multimedia installations. The exhibition aims to explore the complex relationships between Indigenous cultures and contemporary art, and to encourage a deeper understanding of the history and culture of Canada's First Nations.

The show is organized by Curator Heather Holm, who has worked closely with Stephen Bulger Gallery, and has been a strong supporter of Aboriginal art for many years. The exhibition includes works by a diverse range of artists, from well-known figures like Charlotte Carlson to emerging talent like Jody Pauls. The show also features a special section devoted to the work of women artists, highlighting their significant contributions to the field.

The exhibition opens on Thursday, May 17, and runs until September 23. It is free to the public and open to all ages. The show is located at 100 Wellington St, Ottawa, ON K1P 6S5. For more information, please visit www.thecanadianmuseum.org or call 613-990-6000.