

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## **Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas - First Artist in Residence at the American Museum of Natural History, October 2015**

**October 1st, 2015, Vancouver, BC** – Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas is the first-ever artist residence at the American Museum of Natural History. Yahgulanaas brings the Museum’s historic Hall of Northwest Coast Indians to life through his signature contemporary art form Haida Manga allowing visitors to experience the Museum in new and exciting ways.

“I am very aware of the distinction between being an artist and a Haida artist. This observation significantly influences my approach, and leads me to be very cautious about the role of ethnicity in art,” says Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas. “My practice seeks out the edges where the familiar becomes strange, and the strange becomes familiar. Here the spaces are not any single identity but a blend of multiple ethnicities.”

Influenced by Haida iconography and contemporary Asian visual culture, Yahgulanaas created Haida Manga, his contemporary art form that offers a playful way of viewing and engaging with social issues as it seeks participation, dialogue, reflection and action. He works in multiple forms: paintings, sculptures, large-scale public art, ceramics and illustrated publications.

### **Schedule of Events:**

#### **Thursday, October 1, 12:30 – 5:45pm**

- Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas creates a new painting and explores original prints from his illustrated books.
- Add your own creative touch to a live mural project led by Yahgulanaas and take home a piece of the finished mural.
- Show us where you’re from on a large world map and explore the Pacific Northwest region.
- See animated films and catch a sneak peek of a documentary about the people of Haida Gwaii, an archipelago off the northwest coast of British Columbia, and their efforts to preserve the land and the sea, screening this month at the Museum’s 2015 **Margaret Mead Film Festival** (October 22–25).
- Get inspired! Take a clipboard and sketch something in the **Hall of Northwest Coast Indians**.
- Listen to live tellings of traditional Haida stories at the top of each hour from 1 to 5 pm.

#### **Friday, October 2, 11:30 am – 2:30pm**

- Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas as he creates a new painting and explore original prints from his illustrated books.

- Add your own creative touch to a live mural project led by Yahgulanaas and take home a piece of the finished mural.

**Saturday, October 3, 11:30 am – 5:45 pm**

- Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas as he creates a new painting and explore original prints from his illustrated books.
- Add your own creative touch to a live mural project led by Yahgulanaas and take home a piece of the finished mural.
- Show us where you're from on a large world map and explore the Pacific Northwest region.
- See animated films and catch a sneak peek of a documentary about the people of Haida Gwaii, an archipelago off the northwest coast of British Columbia, and their efforts to preserve the land and the sea, screening this month at the **Museum's Margaret Mead Film Festival** (October 22–25).
- Get inspired! Take a clipboard and sketch something in the **Hall of Northwest Coast Indians**
- Listen to live tellings of traditional Haida stories at the top of each hour, 1 to 3 pm. Join a discussion with Yahgulanaas about the importance of public art and contemporary voices in traditional art, 4 to 5 pm.

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**For media inquiries, please contact:**

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**About Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas**

Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas is an award winning visual contemporary artist and author. His art works are in numerous public and private collections and have exhibited broadly. Institutional collections include the British Museum, Metropolitan Museum and MOA. His large sculptural works are part of the public art collection of the City of Vancouver, City of Kamloops and University of British Columbia. Yahgulanaas' publications include national best sellers *Flight of the Hummingbird* and *RED: A Haida Manga*. For more information: Website: [mny.ca](http://mny.ca) Twitter: [@haidamanga](https://twitter.com/haidamanga) Instagram: [yahgulanaas](https://www.instagram.com/yahgulanaas) Facebook: [Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas](https://www.facebook.com/MichaelNicollYahgulanaas)

**About the American Museum of Natural History**

The American Museum of Natural History is one of the world's preeminent scientific cultural institutions. Since its founding in 1869, the Museum has advanced its global mission to discover, interpret, and disseminate information about cultures, the natural world, and the universe through a wide-ranging program of scientific research, education, and exhibition.

