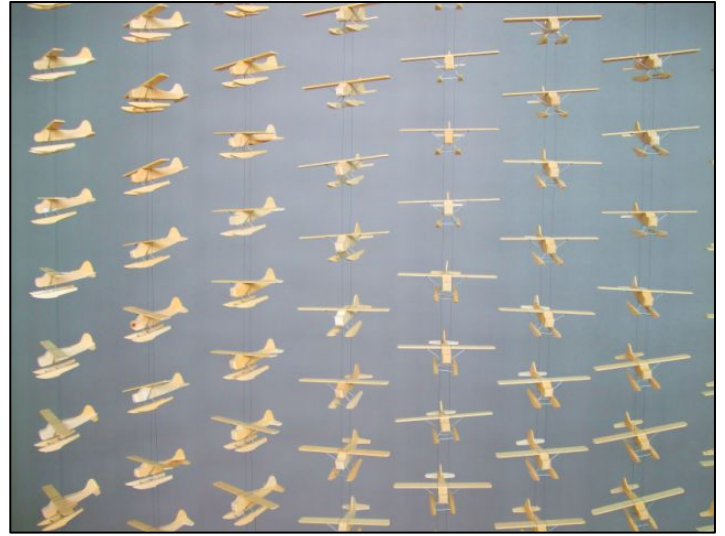


FRANK SHEBAGEGET: *CURTAIN OF BEAVERS*

Two hundred and thirty-eight model aircraft hang in Gallery 120, across from Gate 120 in the domestic departures area of Terminal 1. Ottawa artist Frank Shebageget, a member of the Ojibway nation and originally from northern Ontario, has created numerous installations of these basswood models of the deHavilland Beaver float plane at galleries across Canada. *Curtain of Beavers* was created specifically for Terminal 1.



The Beaver was put into production in 1947, and is still one of Canada's most successful and long-lived designs. For Shebageget, the plane is both a highly recognizable piece of Canadiana, and also a vital part of Native culture. They continue to provide transportation to and from remote Aboriginal communities, and they symbolize changes in Aboriginal social structure and economics brought on by this connection with outside communities. The installation takes the shape of a curtain, spanning west to east, and symbolizing exploration into the Canadian north.

Frank Shebageget explains that the conceptual background of this installation is a combination of references to Canada's aviation history, the colonial policies on northern Aboriginal development, and the personal and community narratives from Native communities. This conceptual framework speaks to both the historical and contemporary relevance of these planes to both Native and non-Native identity in Canada.

This installation is presented as part of Planet IndigenUs, a multidisciplinary arts festival that explores Indigenous cultures through its artists. The festival is organized by Harbourfront Centre and Woodland Cultural Centre.

www.harbourfrontcentre.com/planetindigenus