Sing Our Rivers Red

Albert R. Mann Library, Cornell University

November 1-7, 2015

Written by: Annie Raccuglia

“As long as we remember, we continue to be.” — Haley Marama Cavino

For a week in November of 2015, Cornell’s Mann Library hosted traveling exhibition Sing Our Rivers Red, which honors Indigenous women, girls, Two Spirit and LGBTQIA people who have been murdered, disappeared, oppressed, or abused, and have not received the justice or attention they deserve. The exhibition is part of the Sing Our Rivers Red (SORR) collective, founded by three Native women, Hannabah Blue, Tanaya Winder, and Patty Stonefish, and contains nearly two thousand earrings, corresponding with the number of Indigenous women murdered or missing since 1980. It was brought to Cornell by the Indigenous Graduate Student Association (IGSA) and
the undergraduate organization of Native American Students at Cornell, with the intention of creating greater awareness around the epidemic. On November 3rd, there was a dedication and song delivered by student Fredrick Blaisdell (Onieda Nation, Cornell University ’16), and a panel discussion led by scholar Haley Marama Cavino (Māori, Ithaca College) and Professor Lisa Kahaleole Hall (Kanaka Maoli, Wells College, Cornell University), both of whom addressed the colonial gender-based violence and normalization of erasure that spurred the exhibition. They then opened up the conversation, which ranged from metaphors of water, to restorative justice, to issues of coercion and consent, to the relationship between storytelling, artifact, and memory.

For more information, please visit: https://singourriversred.wordpress.com/

Event hosted by:
Indigenous Graduate Student Association (IGSA)
Native American Students at Cornell (NASAC)
Student Assembly Finance Commission (SAFC)
American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program
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