

agenda



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[FLOWER POWER]

**Visit beautiful
worlds, both
real and
imagined**

BRIGHT, PRECISE DOTS OF PAINT converge into winding vines, pretty birds and vibrant blossoms in Christi Belcourt's beadwork-style paintings. It's a style the (Michif) Metis artist conceived in the early 1990s as a way to explore her people's history of intricate floral beadwork, as well as their relationship to land, wildlife and the larger environment.

Surrounded by 100 acres of woodland and trails, the McMichael Gallery in Kleinburg, Ont., is an obvious setting for a Belcourt retrospective, collecting dozens of pieces dating back over 25 years. Majestic paintings hang alongside simpler screen-printed works that share more direct messages of Indigenous sovereignty and environmental restoration.

After enjoying the art, visitors can go out among real plants and animals, hopefully with greater appreciation for everything Belcourt is so determined to protect. The message is that humans will no longer be at war with the natural world once we accept that we are part of it.

► "Uprising: The Power of Mother Earth," McMichael Gallery, until January 24, 2021.