

THE MANIFESTO OF OVOIDISM

This new body of work develops and creates a new visual language of conceptual art. The principal pinnacle concept is the ovoid. I have spent years looking at different ovoids, hundreds of them, thinking about them and visualizing different ovoids to create art. The rule of ovoidism is to maintain some part of, or all of, the shape of the ovoid. At the same time, the ovoid serves as a philosophy to think about such things as land claims, Aboriginal rights, self-determination and self-government, social conditions and environmentalism, Native reason and Native philosophy – all of these things have to be synthesized together. I am simplifying a way to discuss my mind and how I feel. This body of work is a new way for me to express Native “modernalities” and to intellectualize place, space and Native reason.¹

I am engaged in recording myself and the noble savage in the modernalities of this time and history. Fundamentally, it is about colonial deconstruction and Aboriginal reconstruction.

Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun

THE RULES TO OVOIDISM

Ovoids can come in all shapes and sizes.

Only ovoids can be used.

Ovoids can be any colour.

Ovoids can be made into sculptures and all other forms of art as long as you retain the principles and guidelines that are deemed absolute.

Ovoid painting can be used as a metaphorical terminology of thinking, for instance, “all my relations.”²
Therefore I will gain wisdom. Ha, Ha!

Political statements
and joyous statements
can be made.

All modern equipment and materials
are allowed to create an ovoid.

You should at least

be an Indian to create an ovoid.

Ha!

Lawrence Paul Yuxweluptun

NOTES

1. Modernalities is a neologism that references the art historical juncture of modernism and primitivism as politically contested and historically unfinished.

2. To encompass everything, all forms of knowledge, human and otherwise.

Originally Published in: Colour Zone. Catalogue Essay. Ed. Watson, Petra. Winnipeg: Plug In Editions, 2003.