KEN HOLYOKE & SUSAN BLAIR

AESTHETICS OR FUNCTION:
THE INFLUENCE OF COLOUR PREFERENCE IN LITHIC PREPARATION ON THE MARITIME PENINSULA

ABSTRACT
Archaeological discussions of the influence of aesthetic preferences among hunter-gatherers, including practical procurement and preparation activities, have been limited. Growing evidence from the Maritime Peninsula indicates that among ancestral Wabanaki, preferential selection of specific colours or ranges of colours was made for various raw materials including copper and stone. Using data from sites in the Lower Saint John River and the wider Maritime Peninsula, we argue that change through time in the selection, preparation, and distribution of specific types of stone indicates knappers may have been interested in brightly-coloured materials and preferentially selecting certain shades, or altering stone to achieve those colours. These results suggest a level of influence that aesthetic and cultural decisions may have had for hunter-gatherers in the region, alongside visible continuities in the ideological constructs which persist among contemporary Wabanaki peoples.

WHEN
Thursday, February 18th, 2021
8:00–9:00 pm AST/7:00–8:00 PM EST

WHERE
Zoom Meeting – Please pre-register at:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85657189109?pwd=enVlbkxyMjZsNVNaRFo5M01wb1RwZz09

DETAILS
Please join us for the fifth lecture in APANB-AAPNB 2020-2021 Speaker Series with Sue Blair, Ph.D., and Ken Holyoke, Ph.D. candidate. A brief Q&A will follow the presentation.

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BIO
Ken Holyoke received his MA from University of New Brunswick in 2012 and has worked in CRM throughout Eastern Canada for over a decade. He is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto. Ken’s research focuses on lithic technology, quarrying, sourcing, and exchange, place-making, and hunter-gatherer archaeology in the Northeast. He is a founding Board Member of the APANB-AAPNB and has published on Maritime Peninsula pre-Contact history and lithic technology in the Canadian Journal of Archaeology, Journal of Anthropological Archaeology, and the Canadian Museum of History’s Mercury Series.

Susan Blair is a Professor in the Department of Anthropology at University of New Brunswick engaged in a range of research projects that focus on pre-contact technology, including copper working, and stone tool, pottery and textile manufacturing. She is also engaged in exploring the processes involved in community-driven research and Indigenous archaeology. She currently holds a SSHRC Insight Grant exploring Indigenous settlement patterning on the Fundy Coast of New Brunswick and was a co-grantee for a National Geographic Society Grant relating to pre-Contact Indigenous fisheries in the Bay of Fundy. Dr. Blair is a co-founding member and past President of the APANB-AAPNB.