

AYA Optical Introduces Horizon and Breeze: Lightweight Metal Frames Featuring Artwork by Donald Chrétien, Alongside Major Public Art Installations in Toronto

North Vancouver, BC —March 12, 2026 — AYA Optical, the award-winning eyewear brand known for integrating original Indigenous artwork into premium eyewear, proudly announces the launch of two new lightweight optical styles, **Horizon** and **Breeze**, featuring artwork by acclaimed Ojibwe artist **Donald Chrétien**. The launch coincides with a landmark year for Chrétien, who will unveil two major public art installations in Toronto this spring and summer.

Designed as part of AYA Optical's Spring/Summer collection, Horizon and Breeze represent a refined evolution in lightweight metal eyewear. These contemporary frames combine technical precision with cultural storytelling, offering exceptional comfort while showcasing meaningful artwork in a subtle and wearable form.

Both styles feature Donald Chrétien's distinctive artistic voice, rooted in his Ojibwe heritage and known for its flowing lines, symbolic forms, and deep spiritual significance. To complement the eyewear, AYA has created custom microfiber cleaning cloths featuring enlarged versions of Chrétien's artwork, allowing the full visual impact of his designs to be experienced beyond the frame itself.

"Donald's work carries powerful symbolism and an incredible use of colour," said Carla D'Angelo, Founder and Creative Director of AYA Optical. "With Horizon and Breeze, we wanted to create frames that feel almost weightless while still carrying the strength and story of his art. These styles reflect both technical refinement and cultural depth."





This launch also aligns with a significant period in Chrétien's artistic career, with two major public installations scheduled for unveiling in Toronto:

1. On **April 30, 2026**, Chrétien will unveil a monumental **9-foot by 6-foot artwork** at the dedication of the new Indigenous Building at the **University of Toronto Scarborough**, a space designed to honor Indigenous presence, knowledge, and community.
2. On **June 21, 2026 (National Indigenous Peoples Day)**, his work will be featured in a dramatic **3-foot by 65-foot installation** at the historic **Church of the Redeemer** at Avenue Road and Bloor Street, one of Toronto's most prominent intersections. This expansive piece will serve as a powerful visual expression of Indigenous culture within the urban landscape.

These installations reflect Chrétien's growing recognition as a leading contemporary Indigenous artist, whose work continues to bridge traditional teachings with modern expression.

AYA Optical has built its reputation on authentic collaborations with Indigenous artists, ensuring that their stories and cultural heritage are respectfully shared through thoughtfully designed eyewear. Each frame serves not only as a functional object but as a canvas for storytelling, with partial proceeds supporting Indigenous youth and cultural initiatives.

The Horizon and Breeze styles are now available through select optical retailers across Canada and the United States and online at www.claudiaalan.com.

About AYA Optical

Founded in North Vancouver, AYA Optical is a premium eyewear brand dedicated to celebrating Indigenous art and culture through innovative design. Collaborating with renowned Indigenous artists from across North America, AYA integrates original artwork into contemporary eyewear, creating pieces that are both visually striking and culturally meaningful. The brand is committed to supporting Indigenous communities and sharing their stories with a global audience.

About Donald Chrétien

Donald Chrétien is an Ojibwe artist whose work is deeply rooted in his spiritual and cultural heritage. Known for his distinctive flowing style and symbolic imagery, Chrétien's art reflects themes of connection, balance, and transformation. His work has been exhibited widely and is featured in public installations and private collections across North America.

Media Contact:

Carla D'Angelo
Founder and Creative Director
AYA Optical / Claudia Alan Inc.

Tel 604 836 1967

Email: info@claudiaalan.com

Website: www.claudiaalan.com

Instagram: @ayaoptical