

## Transcript of *Strong Woman*

Part of *Illuminating Matriarchs*

### AUDIO DESCRIPTION:

This is a 1 minute introduction to the extended audio description version of Vivian Chong's short film *Strong Woman*. Black and frozen frames have been added to accommodate descriptions. This film has been recorded in portrait orientation. Vivian is featured in the film. She is a Person of Colour who is Asian Canadian with brownish blond hair cut in a bob. She has an athletic physique. She mostly appears wearing activewear in muted colours with red or pink rimmed sunglasses. In the first part of the film she addresses the camera directly standing in front of a tall fence with evergreen trees and a light coloured building in the background. She wears a yellow toque and dark sunglasses with yellow rims and a purple puffer jacket with a scarf

Vivian: Hi, my name is Vivian Chong. I'm an artist and a theatre creator in Toronto. My movie is called *Strong Woman*. The subject is Claire Kearns, she is a Métis woman in Ontario. She was a junior school teacher and now she retire she continue to do community action. She believes in spreading the Métis teaching and history. I met her through her action. 35 years ago, she help a little boy who is out of a home. She provided him food and shelter for a week. And now 35 years later, this boy is a man and he remember Claire Kearns as the first strong woman he ever met in his life, which sparked my interest to interview Claire in her living room in November 2023. She shared with me about Métis teaching and symbols appear in her life that guided her through her life journey. At the end of this interview, she gave me a pouch of tobacco as a blessing to help me on with my own journey making this movie. I let symbols guide me through making this movie. I stepped into the unknown without planning. I use my feet as my eyes. As I step through different environment, I find symbols, until I encounter the last symbol which you will see in this movie which symbolise, independence and strength. I hope you enjoy the movie!

AD: She smiles

White text on a black background. "*Strong woman*" a film by Vivian Chong

Indoor footage of Vivian seated in a row of female-expressing people facing a crowd. Vivian is the person furthest left, beside her is a Spanish translator who speaks after she does. Next to the translator is a Mexican Sign Language Interpreter who signs as the translator speaks

Vivian: If a certain situation is not respectful, we don't have to go there [Translation in Spanish] And if you see something you don't like, you don't have to suffer [Spanish translation]

Vivian interviewing: What is the definition of a strong woman?

AD: A shot looks down at two pairs of feet walking on dry leaves

Claire: Strong woman is one who can stand on her own two feet.

[Sound of birds chirping and crows cawing]

AD: A quick glimpse of trees in a ravine on a bright sunny day. Then Vivian crouches and explores grey palm-sized rocks on the ground with her hand. The yellowed leaves of oak and maple trees also lie on the ground. As music plays, she moves and it becomes apparent she is at a water's edge as she continues to explore stones on the sandy water's edge. She disrupts the sandy ground's surface with a short stick drawing 3 parallel lines in multiple places. She crouches in front of a round stone the size of her torso and places rocks on top of it, arranging them in a circle around its edges as water gently streams around it.

[Sound of an Indigenous hand drum]

(Singing) Woman: Weeey-heya, Wey-heya-heyo

(Singing) Group of Women: Weeey-heya, Wey-heya-heyo

[Wey-heya's fade out]

[Speaking Spanish]

AD: Vivian wearing a red sweater dress stands in front of a mic on a theatre stage, also on stage in a line behind her are a sign language interpreter, a person holding a white cane, a sighted guide and a translator holding a mic.

Vivian: Today, we are on this stage, we are stepping into our power [Spanish Translation] Without fear, again! [Spanish Translation] Say yes! [Spanish Translation] [Everyone on stage and the audience says, "Yes, Sí, etc] We got this! Sí!

AD: Next, daytime airplane footage shows a mountain range from high up. Then feet walk on a crosswalk and finally on a nature trail. Then there is a shot of green vegetation surrounding 12 meter high, 1 meter wide totem pole behind a fence. The camera pans up it to the sky which is filled with fluffy clouds

[Sound of leaves underfoot]

Vivian: Walk in peace in the path of life with grace and humility

[Sound of leaves underfoot]

Claire: Strong woman is one who can stand on her own two feet

[Sound of leaves crunching underfoot]

Vivian: There's a lot of seed or nuts turning my ankle. In the middle of the park, pass through the forest in a clearing where is somewhere secluded and quiet, just like the nature of Canada, secluded and quiet.

At the bottom of the totem pole is a man with a jacket. On top of this man is another man with a mask on, green mask, white face, red lips. On top of him another man, green mask white face, red lips. On top of him is another, brown body and then on top of the other is a Thunderbird about to take flight. His wings are brown. He has yellow beak and beige legs. This is a gift coming from Canada to Mexico, symbolizing union of the two nations and is a gift for the celebration of 150 years independence of Mexico. And today t the end of my journey, I am going to celebrate my strong womanhood

Claire: Strong woman is one who can stand on her own two feet

Vivian: Standing on my two feet

AD: The camera pans down to show Vivian's legs

Vivian: On this earth, I journey to I am going to give thanks to the land

AD: Vivian's closed hand pokes through the bars of the fence

Vivian: For keeping me safe and cultivating relationships

AD: Her hand opens revealing dried tobacco.

Vivian: Here is my gift. Scatter the tobacco on the land

AD: White text on a black background. "Strong Woman". A film by Vivian Chong

Video recording and editing by Vivian Chong and Jeff Dusome

"Strong Woman" song features the voice of Claire Kearns

Audio Description provided by Superior Description Services. Written by Rebecca Singh with consultation by Christine Malec

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