

## The grandfather of indigenous hip hop says he's inspired by the new wave of First Nations artists

Munkimuk AKA Mark Ross first got into rapping via breakdancing in the late 1980s and since then has heavily involved as an artist, producer and mentor.

“The hip-hop community just in general is populated by so many great First Nations artists that come from the mainland or Torres Straight Islands.

5 “If you go back to the 80s there weren’t as many opportunities as there are now, so it’s been a gradual thing and it’s been an amazing journey to watch,” he says.

Munkimuk feels there is a strong overlap<sup>1</sup> between his community, storytelling and hip-hop culture and this connection grew stronger in the 1980s.

10 “Our mob have been passing down stories for 100,000 years or so which is a reason why I think the First Nations people in this country gravitated towards hip-hop in the 80s.

“You can go to any part of this country and you’ll find people who were trailblazers<sup>2</sup> in their own communities that were doing hip-hop or breaking.

15 “Our mob connects with hip-hop so much because it’s very similar in the way of stories being passed down. I think a graff and rock art, and dancing by ways of telling stories... I think that’s the whole reason why First Nations mobs gravitate towards hip-hop,” he says.

Issy Phillips, *pedestrian.tv*, 2023

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<sup>1</sup> chevauchement

<sup>2</sup> pionniers