

Acknowledgments

Much of this book is about the labor to live a good life. The people of the Mohawk nation at Kahnawà:ke do this work with great verve and equanimity, while enduring and pushing against the ongoing stress and structure of settler colonialism. Their commitment to the principle of a good mind and to the struggle to maintain and then assert that principle has inspired and forms the core questions of this book. I am deeply, deeply grateful to them for this, and for holding on to everything.

Kahnawà:ke, the Mohawk Nation, and the Haudenosaunee are embedded conceptually and in different ways politically in the global category of “Indigeneity” and of course, by extension, Indigenous peoples. I owe an ongoing debt—a general one that is so broad and simultaneously categorical as to seem abstract, to those whose lives and lands brought forth the questions that animate this book. Indigenous peoples within and beyond Kahnawà:ke continue to strive and in so doing sustain questions of profound theoretical and political importance—questions of persistence, vigor, and dignity in the face of grinding power—as well as the disavowal of staggering wrongdoing.

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Every year Kahnawà:ke calls me home to present elements from this book or comment on the work of others. For one month Kwatokent TV televised an earlier version of the “border” chapter, chapter 5 after a “Meet the Authors” event at Kanien’kehá:ka Onkwawén:na Raotitióhkwa Language & Cultural Center. I thank Donna Goodleaf and Martin Loft for these invitations, and I thank them for calling me an author long before I was published. Not only did they honor this work tremendously by doing so; they animated, inspired, and made less painful the work of revision. I thank Teyowisonte (Tommy) Deer, Carla Hemlock, Kanentokon Hemlock, Tekanerahtaneken (Greg) Horn, Stephanie Waterman, Percy Abrams, and the 207 Longhouse for their help tracking down permissions and then for their permission to use the images within. Teyowisonte also helped me with my spelling in Mohawk, which is hugely needed (and appreciated!). Any mistakes are my own, of course.

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Niawen ko:wa akwek:on.