

Self-Guided Tour

Voices of Diversity Contemporary Native American Artists

Social injustices against Native American communities that began with the arrival of European settlers continue to the present day. Contemporary Native artists have used their work to address injustices, as well as to tell stories about their histories and cultures. This tour asks you to reflect on the diverse voices Native American artists bring to the 21st century, including a dose of humor. The first three artists are from Indigenous lands now located within Minnesota.

	<p>Gallery 303 <i>Lake Superior Landscape</i> George Morrison 1981 Acrylic on canvas</p>	<p>George Morrison's style was influenced by mid-20th century Abstract Expressionism. In this painting and the other Morrison artworks on view in this gallery consider how his abstract forms show reverence for nature. <i>Which of the Morrison landscapes do you like best and why? What aspect of Lake Superior do they capture for you?</i></p>
	<p>Gallery 301 <i>The Delegation</i> Jim Denomie 2008 Oil on canvas</p>	<p>Jim Denomie's narrative style uses humor to examine historical and contemporary events related to Native history. Look closely at the images in this painting. <i>What do you like or dislike about them?</i> For comparison, take a look at the painting titled <i>The Death Song of Lone Wolf</i> above the sculpture of a stampede. <i>How do the emotions conveyed in the two paintings differ?</i></p>
	<p>Gallery 301 <i>Pocahontas Cessation</i> Julie Buffalohead 2014 Acrylic, ink and pencil on dark blue Lokta paper</p>	<p>Do you remember the long-held story of Pocahontas read to so many children? Julie Buffalohead's work focuses on the deconstruction of Native stories that have been misinterpreted by European settlers. <i>Read the label for a description of the artist's reinterpretation of Pocahontas and John Smith.</i></p>
	<p>Gallery 262 <i>Winter</i>, from "The Four Seasons" series Wendy Red Star 2012 Archival pigment print on Museo silver rag</p>	<p>First look at Wendy Red Star's photograph from a distance and then move up close. <i>How do your perceptions change as you move closer?</i> Ponder how she incorporates references to her Native culture. <i>What might she be saying about contemporary culture in relation to Native beliefs?</i> Her artwork of the other three seasons can be seen at collections.artsmia.org.</p>
	<p>Gallery 261 <i>Mixed Blood Guy</i> Kevin Pourier 2009 Buffalo horn, colored minerals</p>	<p>Struggles with identity provide a frequent theme for contemporary Native American artists. Kevin Pourier has captured his mixed heritage with unique materials and images. <i>What in this sculpture talks to you about Native life? What speaks of current popular culture? What do the fingers represent to you?</i></p>
	<p>Gallery 260 <i>Boomin' Out</i> Carla Hemlock 2015 Cotton fabrics, glass beads, wampum</p>	<p><i>How would you feel standing on top of a skyscraper?</i> These Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) men became famous for constructing New York's tallest buildings. In this quilt artist Carla Hemlock used traditional materials in a creative way to pay tribute to these Indigenous men. <i>What do you see in the quilt that keeps these men rooted in their native culture?</i></p>

Your Visit

Before Your Visit

- General admission is available Thursday-Sunday, 10am-5pm.
- Admission to Mia is always free, but timed tickets are required for entry.
- Reserve a ticket at <https://ticket.artsmia.org/products/general-admission>
- Thursdays, 10am-noon, are reserved for older adults and for those defined by the CDC as vulnerable or at-risk.

During Your Visit

- Parking is available on the street or in lots on either side of the Third Avenue entrance. See Mia's website for further directions and parking information.
- Enter and exit the building at the Third Avenue entrance. Other entrances are closed.
- Masks are required during your visit.
- Maps are available to help locate the galleries for this self-guided tour.
- The coffee shop in the main lobby is open.
- Museum guards and front-lobby staff are happy to help you find specific artworks.

After Your Visit

- Consider responding to a survey about your visit, sent via email from Mia.
- Join a free virtual tour led by Mia docents and hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church.
- Check Westminster's website for virtual tour dates and sign-up information:
<https://www.westminstermpls.org/grow/adult-ed/>

If you are unable to visit Mia in person, the artworks for this tour may be viewed at:

<https://collections.artsmia.org/>. Enter the artist's last name in the search box. In most instances you will be able to see the image as well as read the label. You may also enter a gallery number [ex. G303] to see other artworks in that gallery.