

Indigenous Americans: Post Colonial Expressions

For Immediate Release - Amsterdam Feb 20th, 2023

STRAAT Museum and STRAAT Gallery are pleased to announce our upcoming exhibition, *Indigenous Americans: Post Colonial Expressions*. This exhibition will present work from four contemporary artists with native American heritage: Jaque Fragua, Danielle SeeWalker, Kaplan Bunce, and Anthony Garcia Sr.

As part of our ongoing mission to expose the public to the diversity of street art and graffiti culture worldwide, this exhibition celebrates an underexposed subculture within. *Indigenous Americans: Post Colonial Expressions* speaks to the unity a diverse culture embodies, and to the deeply rooted history of Indigenous makers and their ongoing relationship with public space painting.

In the words of participating artist, Kaplan Bunce, “*The contemporary Urban Art landscape to me looks like a mix between a culture-rich sharing of art practices from around the globe. I see unity in the community and have found that by continuously practicing my indigenousness throughout these spaces I am continuing a pathway made by those who have been making marks on walls for all of time.*”

The exhibition launches with a public opening reception on Saturday April 8th, 2023, from 7-10 pm in the STRAAT Gallery at STRAAT Museum.

All four of the artists will be in attendance.

cont:

In addition to the gallery exhibition which runs through Sunday June 4th, 2023, each artist will also create a mural scale work for STRAAT’s permanent collection in our massive main hall.

The artists will be painting live during the museum’s opening hours from Sunday, April 2nd, through Friday April 7th, 2023. Visitors are encouraged to enjoy and witness their progress during these days.

During the reception STRAAT Gallery will also host a press and public Q & A with the artists. The Q & A will take place between 7:30 and 8:00 pm. This is a unique opportunity to get to know the artists.

The following pages contain biography information and images from each of the participating artists.



Danielle SeeWalker - Battle of Greasy Pines - tipi mural

STRAAT Museum Operating Hours:
Tuesday - Sunday 10 am - 6 pm
Monday - noon - 6 pm

Location:
NDSM Plein 1, 1033WC,
Amsterdam, Netherlands
www.straatmuseum.com

STRAAT

Kaplan Bunce



Kaplan Bunce

Kaplan Bunce, Apache wood-worker, and a mural artist, was born and raised in Washington State. Since he moved to Kaua'i, Hawaii over a decade ago, Bunce has experienced a steady affinity with Hawaiian cultures because they share similar qualities with mainland indigenous tribes, such as unification through culture, language, and oral traditions following a history of colonization.

Bunce, whose Apache heritage is tied to Albuquerque, New Mexico, supports his Native heritage by dancing in powwows, raising his two daughters while instilling knowledge of their tribal identities, and reconnecting to indigenous spirituality through the Native American Church.

"My life has changed dramatically in a good way," he said of the effect of indigenous religious traditions on his soul. "My artwork comes from that ceremony."

Bunce is a veteran participant in the world renown mural event program POW-WOW and has been both a bridge and communicative advocate for the event which has to address appropriation concerns over it's name.

Bunce believes in progressing forward and continues to support self-actualization and reclamation of the indigenous identity alongside his family in Hawaii. He hopes to see indigenous art continue to evolve and grow. "You meet the coolest people out there on the streets. Sometimes you meet people out there who touch your life. My goal is to paint on as many reservations as I can," he said. "I believe in humanity. I've reconciled with my own prejudices. I keep one foot in tradition, one foot moving forward."

Instagram: @kapache1



Jaque Fragua



Jaque Fragua

"Mobil Savage"

Jaque Fragua is an indigenous artist, musician, and activist, whose work features visions drawn from traditional Native American design, ceramics, textiles, tattoos, song, dance, and more. Fragua authentically reimagines his culture's iconography and genius, which conceptually subverts our overconsumption of misappropriated Native American identity. He hails from Jemez Pueblo, New Mexico.

"Art has always been a struggle for me. I relate this struggle to the angst of my identity. My identity is not just rooted in Native American culture. Instead, I find myself an amalgam of DNAs, historical trauma, boarding schools, civil rights, Alcatraz, American dreams, urbanization, reservation tragedy, creative triumph, war stories, fist fights, jail time, racial profiling, mixed opinions, hiphop, punk, rock & roll, jazz, graffiti, tattoos, dark brown skin, long black hair, spiritual wisdom, traditional knowledge, direct action, and painting..."

@mobil savage



Anthony Garcia Sr.



Anthony Garcia Sr.

Anthony Garcia Sr. was born and raised in Denver, Colorado, more specifically in the Globeville community. Beginning as an urban street artist (aka graffiti writer), Anthony has since grown into a multifaceted creative entrepreneur and community leader and is now most recognized for his public artwork, community outreach programming, and his leadership in championing emerging artists from Denver and abroad.

His artistic style incorporates traditional Chicano motifs and celebrates the complex duality of living as a US Citizen who is also Chicano. His aesthetic pays homage to cultural, geographical, and historical contexts through the implementation of modern techniques and exploration of pop trends. While Anthony most commonly is referred to as a Contemporary Artist, he could additionally be considered a traditionalist, especially in terms of his interpretation of and relationship to the mainstream art world.

Aside from being a successful contemporary artist, Anthony is also the co-founder of Birdseed Collective, a Denver-based nonprofit that aims to make a positive impact in local communities through programs and projects that emphasize creativity and healthy living. Birdseed Collective is also dedicated to educating and enabling the disadvantaged and the under-resourced and impacts its mission through food programs, after-school programs, beautification projects, and a diverse array of inclusion efforts. His drive for community enrichment was influenced in part by his participation in the Denver Housing Authority's Arts Street program and his longtime relationship with the MSU Center for Visual Arts.

@birdseedanthony



Danielle SeeWalker



Danielle SeeWalker

Danielle SeeWalker is Húnkpapȟa Lakȟóta and citizen of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota. She is an artist, writer, activist, and ‘boymom’ of two, based in Denver, Colorado. Her visual artwork often incorporates the use of mixed media and experimentation while incorporating traditional Native American materials, scenes, and messaging. Her artwork pays homage to her identity as a Lakȟóta wíñyan (woman) and her passion to redirect the narrative to an accurate and insightful representation of contemporary Native America while still acknowledging historical events

Alongside her passion for creating visual art, Danielle is a freelance writer and recently published her first book, titled “Still Here: A Past to Present Insight of Native American People & Culture.” She is also very dedicated to staying connected and involved in her Native community and currently serves as Co-Chair for the Denver American Indian Commission. Danielle has also been working on a personal, passion project since 2013 with her long-time friend called The Red Road Project. The focus of the work is to document, through words and photographs, what it means to be Native American in the 21st century by capturing inspiring and positive stories of people and communities within Indian Country.

@Seewalker_art



STRAAT

MAIN HALL



STRAAT

GALLERY

