

TheFeministArtProject

TFAP@CAA DAY OF PANELS

Crossroads: Art + Native Feminisms

College Art Association Annual Conference 2017
Saturday, February 18, 2017, 10:15am-6:00pm
Museum of Arts and Design

ABSTRACT

Panel: The Struggle for Cultural Capital in Contemporary Native American Art

While there is an abundance of non-Native perspectives on contemporary Native American Art there is rarely an opportunity for others to hear the sophisticated visceral Native language of their art. This panel will discuss the multi-disciplinary struggle for cultural capital in Contemporary Native American Art and share first person aspects of an unknown, organic, highly diverse Native American art movement, based in New York City – a movement that encompasses the founding of contemporary Native American film and theater in the United States as well as the strongest contemporary Native visual arts movement outside Santa Fe, New Mexico. These women’s commitment to their art and cultural equity for all Native artists averages 40+ years each in the New York art world. Some of the topics that will be explored are: How does a Native artist acquire the cultural capital necessary for success without an excessive reliance on the mainstream for approval and acceptance? What role does Native feminism play in women artists gaining the self-confidence, discipline and perseverance necessary for success? What role do traditional Native values play in this process? The social aspect of a Native woman’s life is such that often she is the main bread winner. With that comes the difficulty of survival in a patriarchal society. How did the women on this panel not only survive but thrive?

Chair:

DIANE FRAHER, Amerinda Inc.

Diane Fraher writes and directs narrative feature films about contemporary Native Americans that explore the struggle of Native Americans to identify with traditional values within the context of modern society. She has received numerous fellowships and awards for her filmmaking. Diane’s current feature film, *The Heart Stays*, is the first feature film with a lead Native female character. An enrolled Member of Osage Nation with documented Cherokee heritage as well, in 1987 Ms. Fraher founded American Indian Artists Inc., (AMERINDA) New York, a Native community-based multi-arts organization.

Panelists:

GLORIA MIGUEL, Spiderwoman Theater

Gloria Miguel is Kuna and Rappahannock. Together with her sisters Muriel and Lisa Mayo (1924-2013) she founded Spiderwoman Theater. A director, playwright, actor and teacher she is still actively touring and performing after 40 years on stage. Together with her sisters, Gloria received a DFA honorary degree from Miami University in Oxford, OH in 1997 honoring her achievements in contemporary Native theater.

MURIEL MIGUEL, Spiderwoman Theater

Muriel Miguel, Kuna and Rappahannock, is a director, choreographer, playwright, actor and educator. A founding member and artistic director of Spiderwoman Theater, she has directed almost all of Spiderwoman's shows since their debut in 1976, in which time, they have written and produced over twenty original works for the theatre. Muriel is an internationally known performing artist who has received numerous awards during her distinguished career. Most recently, she was awarded a 2016 Guggenheim Fellowship in Theater.

JAUNE QUICK-TO-SEE SMITH, Artist

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith is internationally known as an artist, curator, lecturer, print-maker and professor. She was born at St. Ignatius Mission on her reservation and is an enrolled Salish member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation of Montana. Smith has had over 110 solo exhibits and has organized and/or curated over 30 Native exhibitions in the US and abroad. Her work is in the collections of Whitney Museum of American Art, MoMA, the Metropolitan, the Brooklyn Museum, the Victoria and Albert, Museum of Mankind, Frankfurt; the Museum of Modern Art, Quito Ecuador and many others.