

INDIGENOUS SURVIVANCE



August 29 – October 29, 2022

Reception: September 8th 5-7 p.m.

**Alice R. Rogers Gallery and Target Gallery
Saint John's Art Center**

Indigenous Survivance is an art exhibit curated by Travis Zimmerman '94, that highlights the work of five of Minnesota's premiere Native artists. Vibrant works, in a number of mediums, tell the story of Native people, drawing on traditional wisdom and knowledge to impact contemporary issues and movements. Lakota and Ojibwe artists Pat Kruse, Annette S. Lee, Steve Premo, Laura Youngbird and Jonathan Thunder share their works to educate others about what it means to be Native and to inspire a whole new generation of Native artists to create art for continued Indigenous Survivance.

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS PERFORMANCE ENGAGES WITH:

- Native Identity
- Cultural Reclamation
- Live Courageously
- Boarding Schools
- Historical Trauma
- Think Deeply
- Traditional Knowledge
- Storytelling
- Embrace Difference

ONLINE RESOURCES

[National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition https://boardingschoolhealing.org/about-us/](https://boardingschoolhealing.org/about-us/)

[IllumiNATIVE https://illuminative.org/](https://illuminative.org/)

[NativeHope https://blog.nativehope.org/understanding-historical-trauma-and-native-americans](https://blog.nativehope.org/understanding-historical-trauma-and-native-americans)

<https://www.csbsju.edu/news/native-nations-task-force>

<https://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/11803/rec/4>

ENGAGE

American Indian tribes have struggled to define who is Indian throughout United States history. The same can be said about what makes Native American art expressly Native.

- How does art in this exhibit differ or resemble other representations that you have seen of Native Americans?
- When you hear the words "American Indian Art", what comes to mind?
- Has your perception of Indian Art changed after viewing this exhibit?

On the outside of the gallery is an acknowledgment of the Native Nations that lived in the area where CSB and SJU campuses are located today.

- Beyond acknowledgments, how can institutions and governments begin to repair the harm that has been inflicted on Native communities and the historical trauma that has been passed down from generation to generation?

What role can art play in the healing process? American Indians use storytelling to pass on traditions and knowledge of history and culture.

- What stories are being told through the art in the exhibit?
- How is traditional knowledge reflected in the art?
- Why do you think Travis selected these artists to highlight in the exhibit? What story is he telling through the exhibition?

The colleges of CSB and SJU operated boarding schools and are working to not only acknowledge, but also understand the impacts that these schools had on Native communities. Some of the art displayed speaks directly to the topic of boarding schools, while other pieces indirectly talk about the effects boarding schools had on Indian families. Think about how your life would be different if generations of your ancestors' attended schools where they were forbidden to speak their own language. Their history and culture were dismissed, accomplishments and contributions they made to the history of the world were purposely ignored? What if they were also told they could not practice their religion or way of life any longer?

- Do you think your current situation would be the same?
- Do you think you would value education as much if it ignored everything about who you are and who your ancestors were?