



AKTÁ LAKOTA

Museum & Cultural Center

- an outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School -



NATIONALLY RENOWNED CENTER OF AMERICAN INDIAN ART

NEW EXHIBIT OPENING

WÓYAKE: LANGUAGE IN LAKOTA ART

Curated by David A. Meyer II, ALM Assistant Curator

Open November 13, 2023 – April 30, 2024



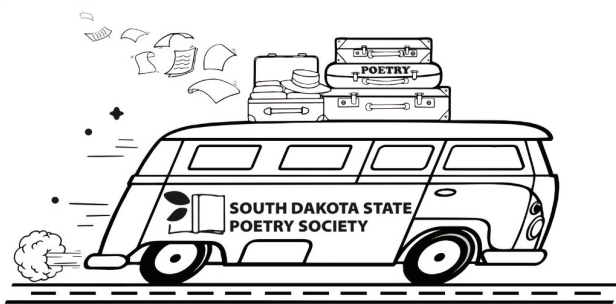
"Wóyake: Language in Lakota Art" is a visually captivating exhibition that invites you to explore the multifaceted dimensions of language within the context of Lakota art. Within this exhibit, you will encounter a diverse range of artworks, each with its unique approach to language.

The exhibit features winter count pictographs, a traditional form of Lakota historical record keeping, which often serves as a silent narrative, depicting events and stories without the use of spoken or written words. In contrast, you will also find art pieces that explicitly reference speech and incorporate written words, showcasing the adaptability of the Lakota language to various artistic expressions.

One of the most poignant aspects of this exhibit is the incorporation of text in both English and Lakota. This dual-language approach signifies the resilience of the Lakota culture and its language, especially in the face of historical challenges.

This exhibition is not just about art; it's about a profound reclamation of language and identity. It highlights the significance of embracing and preserving the Lakota language, contributing to the ongoing revitalization of Lakota culture. "Wóyake: Language in Lakota Art" stands as a powerful testament to the resilience of a people who are determined to ensure their language and heritage is celebrated for generations to come.

SDSPS IS TAKING POETRY ON THE ROAD!



The South Dakota State Poetry Society is taking poetry on the road and it is stopping at the museum!

South Dakota's State Poet Laureate, Bruce Roseland, along with other SDSPS member poets and special guests, will be visiting the Aktá Lakota Museum on November 16, 2023, from 6—8 p.m. They will give poetry readings, and host an open mic where YOU can sign up to read your own original poems! Everyone is welcome to attend this free event!

By bringing poetry to people around our state, [Poetry on the Road](#) helps SDSPS fulfill its mission to “*foster the creation and appreciation of poetry that appeals to the senses, challenges the imagination, and stimulates creative and intellectual thought.*”

LAKOTA ARTIST DYANI WHITE HAWK WINS MACARTHUR FOUNDATION GRANT

Dyani White Hawk, an award-winning, multidisciplinary visual artist and independent curator, is the recipient of a prestigious 2023 MacArthur Fellowship.

The MacArthur Fellowships, often referred to as “genius grants,” include a stipend of \$800,000 to the recipient. Fellows are selected by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and are awarded to talented individuals in a variety of fields, who have shown exceptional originality in, and dedication to, their creative pursuits.

White Hawk grew up in Madison, Wis., and now lives in Minneapolis. She is known internationally for her bold, colorful beadwork — a practice she learned from her community as a teen — and abstract painting.

Her art draws on her Lakota heritage and challenges many tropes and myths championed by Western art history.

White Hawk received her master of fine arts degree from the School of Education's Art Department in 2011 and is further described on the MacArthur Fellows website as a “multidisciplinary artist revealing the under-recognized yet enduring influence of Indigenous aesthetics on modern and contemporary art. In both her finished objects and art-making process, White Hawk ... centers ideas of connectedness — within



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LAKOTA ARTIST DYANI WHITE HAWK ... *continued*

community and family, across generations, and between craft and fine art.”

A woman of Sičangu Lakota and European-American ancestry, White Hawk was raised within Native and urban American communities.

“European and European-American histories have created a hierarchy that has lifted up certain art forms, certain people, and certain communities — and devalued others,” White Hawk [says in a video](#) about her work posted to the MacArthur Fellows web page. These conversations in my work push back against those hierarchies and ask us to think critically about how we tell our histories.”



Artist Dyani White Hawk among the beads that help her artworks shimmer and reflect, changing as the viewer's position changes. Photo Courtesy MacArthur Fellows Program

When talking about her work in the video posted to the MacArthur Fellows web page, White Hawk explains how she draws from the “history of both Lakota abstraction and Euro and Euro-American easel painting abstraction. I have a love for and an affinity for both. They’re both parts of my life journey and my history, my genetic makeup, my life experiences. But I draw from who I am as a Lakota woman.”

White Hawk goes on to note how her studio practice is grounded in painting and beadwork — but she also works in a range of mediums, including painting mixed media works, video installation, photo installation, and public art, to name a few.

The video closes with White Hawk noting: “I hope that people walk away from my work thinking about how our history has impacted Indigenous communities, thinking about our relatedness, thinking about our interconnectivity, and thinking a little deeper about how our lives are connected across the globe.”

In addition to her MFA from UW–Madison, White Hawk received an associate of arts degree in 2003 from Haskell Indian Nations University and a bachelor of fine arts in 2008 from the Institute of American Indian Arts. From 2011-15, she worked as gallery director and curator for All My Relations Gallery in Minneapolis.

White Hawk’s work has been exhibited across the country, including at the: Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art; Museum of Contemporary Art Denver; John and Geraldine Lilley Museum of Art, University of Nevada; List Gallery, Swarthmore College; Plains Art Museum; Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts; Tucson Museum of Art; and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Her work can be found in the permanent collection of the Aktá Lakota Museum.

WÓŃEYAKA — GIFTS FROM GENEROUS DONORS

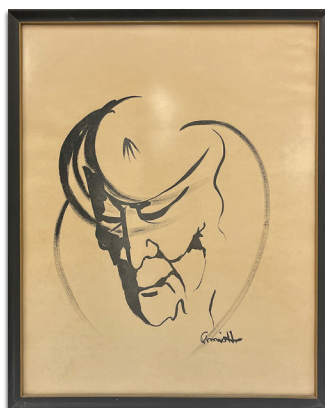
Your valued support of the Akta Lakota Museum connects people to the art and history of the Northern Plains people. Your wačhántognaka — generosity and passion make possible the collecting, preservation, exhibition, and interpretation of historical and contemporary exhibits. You provide access and education, and foster appreciation of the rich culture of the Lakota people. Wópilá táŋka – many thanks for your support and commitment! [Giving Options](#)



Feather Headdress ca. 1930s
Made by Frank Fools Crow
Gift of M. Ball



Hand-Quilted Star Quilt ca. 1950s
Made by D. Begay
Gift of P. Fallbeck



Amiotte Sketches ca. 1970s
Gift of P. Fallbeck



Bandolier Bag ca.
Collected by Fr Sylvester Eisenman, OSB
(1891-1948)
Gift of R. Lang



Pillow ca. 1920s
Collected by Fr Sylvester Eisenman, OSB (1891-1948)
Gift of R. Lang



Childs Vest ca. 1920s
Collected by Fr Sylvester Eisenman, OSB (1891-1948)
Gift of R. Lang

LAKOTA SEASONS AND MOON PHASES

Ptanyétu : The Moons of Change (Autumn)

As summer gave way to fall, the Lakota got ready for winter. Food was gathered to last the winter season. Women prepared meat from the buffalo that the men hunted. Underground storage caches were filled with dried meat and fruit, and large quantities of firewood were stocked.

- **Canwápegi Wi** — Moon When the Leaves Turn Brown
- **Canwapekasna Wi** — Moon When the Wind Shakes off Leaves
- **Waníyetu Wi** — Moon of the Rutting Deer

American Indians treasured nature and earth. The people's close connection to nature is seen in their calendars. Based on the moon cycles, the American Indian year was divided in to 13 moons with each moon being 28 days long.



Ptanyétu:

The Moons of Change (Autumn)

Canwápegi Wi Moon When the Leaves Turn Brown

Canwapekasna Wi Moon When the Wind Shakes Off Leaves

Waníyetu Wi Moon of the Rutting Deer

The Lakota year is divided into 13 moons. Each moon is 28 days long, and every day represents something sacred:

- Two days for the Great Spirit
- Two days for the Mother Earth
- Four days for the Four Winds
- One day for the Spotted Eagle
- One day for the Sun
- One day for the Moon
- One day for the Morning Star
- Four days for the Four Ages
- Seven days for the Seven Rites of the Sacred Pipe
- One day for the Buffalo
- One day for the Fire
- One day for the Water
- One day for the Rock
- One day for the Two-legged People

THE BEST GIFT SHOP AROUND!



The Museum's Gift Shop supports local and regional American Indian artists. The store features unique original art from handmade jewelry to colorful pottery and more. Star quilts, American Indian history books, cards, artistically designed t-shirts . . . all make this a great shopping destination. [Shop Now!](#)



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

FIELD TRIPS WELCOME!



MTI – Human Services Class



West Holt, NE 2nd Grade Class

The Aktá Lakota Museum promotes learning for children of all ages and abilities through interactive, informal, hands-on exhibits and programming.

The museum is a welcoming, fun, and enjoyable environment that honors the rich, beautiful history of the Lakota people. Exhibits, both inside and outside, are designed to include subjects in art, literature, culture, and history. The Aktá Lakota Museum is a place that provides children and adults a living lesson on the American Indian way of life — both past and present. **Admission is Free!**



CES 1st Grade Class

[Plan your visit today!](#)

CAMPUS TOURS

The St. Joseph's Indian School welcomes visitors and group tours. Guided campus tours are available upon request at the receptionist's desk. For more information, call 800.798.3452 or email us at aktalakota@stjo.org.

>> Need more information! <<

Visits are free —with donations encouraged— and the lessons last forever. Learn more about Lakota traditions and more things to do at the museum at Aktalakota.org.

MUSEUM CHANGE OF HOURS/THANKSGIVING CLOSING



GENERAL MUSEUM INFORMATION

Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center

St. Joseph's Indian School

1301 North Main Street

Chamberlain, SD 57325

Phone: 1-605-234-3452

Toll Free: 1-800-798-3452

E-Mail: aktalakota@stjo.org

Online: www.aktalakota.org

Memberships and Affiliations

ABA – American Bus Association

NTA – National Tour Association

ASDM – Association of South Dakota Museums

SDSHS – South Dakota State Historical Society

AAM – American Association of Museums

IACA – Indian Arts & Crafts Association

MPMA – Mountain Plains Museum Association

AASLH – American Assoc. for State &

Local History

Summer Hours

May – October

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Monday - Saturday

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday

Winter Hours

November – April

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Monday - Friday

Closed weekends and National Holidays

- Interactive Displays
- Medicine Wheel Garden
- After Hours Tours by Appointment
- Bus/RV Parking
- Handicap-Accessible
- Guided Tours Available Upon Request

FREE ADMISSION

Donations Welcome



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