

Press Release

apexart - nyc

Native Feminisms

Curated by **Elizabeth S. Hawley**

Virtual Opening and Tour: **Thurs. Jan. 14, 6-7pm**

On view:

January 14 - March 6, 2021

Thurs. - Sat. 1-6pm

Location:

3D Online and at 291 Church Street, NYC



Natani Notah, *Heavy Heels*, 2018.

Featuring Work By:

Demian DinéYazhi'
Marcella Ernest

Maria Hupfield
Elizabeth LaPensée

Natani Notah
Sheldon Raymore

Dyani White Hawk
Jolene Nenibah Yazzie

Native Feminisms showcases the aesthetic richness and political power of artworks produced by contemporary Native North American artists whose practices address intersectional issues of feminisms and indigeneity. Over thirty years ago, Laguna Pueblo scholar Paula Gunn Allen asserted the “red roots of white feminism,” arguing that “If American society judiciously modeled the traditions of the various Native Nations, the place of women in society would become central... the elderly would be respected, honored, and protected as a primary cultural resource... [and] the destruction of the biota, the life sphere, and the natural resources of the planet would be curtailed.” In other words, if settler American societies adopted the worldviews and gynarchical practices that characterized Indigenous communities prior to European invasion, contemporary sociopolitical problems would be alleviated.

Today, issues regarding women’s rights, elders’ protection, and environmental concerns are critical for many North Americans, particularly in the contexts of the #MeToo Movement, the COVID-19 pandemic, and continued fossil fuel extraction. The artists in this exhibition grapple with the specific ways Native communities experience these and other concerns, addressing decolonization efforts, feminine aesthetic traditions, Indigenous ecocriticism, customs of gender fluidity, violence against Native women and Two-Spirit peoples, and Indigenous futurisms.

The breadth of these topics and their historical and contemporary relevance suggest the discursive potential of Nativefeminisms, taken up by the participating artists in ways that visually vary but uniformly insist on Native survivance.

**Native Feminisms* is an apexart New York City Open Call Exhibition. For the latest information on the exhibition and related events, please visit <https://apexart.org/hawley.php> or contact elizabeth.larison@apexart.org.

Elizabeth S. Hawley is the Visiting Assistant Professor in Art History/Visual Studies at Northeastern University. She is a specialist in art of the United States and modern and contemporary art, with a focus in twentieth- and twenty-first-century American Indian art. Other research interests include feminist/women’s art, activist art, and art of the American West. Hawley balances teaching and research with an active curatorial practice, recently curating *African American Artists of the Great Migration* at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, where, as a Barra Fellow, she also contributed to *Modern Times: American Art 1910 — 1950*. Previously, she guest-curated a section of MoMA’s *Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking the Archive*.

apexart’s program supporters past and present include the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, the Buhl Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Spencer Brownstone, the Kenneth A. Cowin Foundation, Epstein Teicher Philanthropies, The Greenwich Collection Ltd., William Talbott Hillman Foundation/Affirmation Arts Fund, the Fifth Floor Foundation, the Consulate General of Israel in New York, The Puffin Foundation, the Trust for Mutual Understanding, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and administered by LMCC, funds from NYSCA Electronic Media/Film in Partnership with Wave Farm: Media Arts Assistance Fund, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, as well as the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

#NativeFeminisms

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