



Art work by Jolene Nenibah Yazzie / Courtesy Apexart

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Apexart
 291 Church St.
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The trio of wonder women in “Sisters of War,” a wall-filling vinyl mural by Jolene Nenibah Yazzie, on view in this dynamic group show at Apexart, have a superpower: they shatter taboos. Yazzie, whose tribal affiliations are Diné, Comanche, and White Mountain Apache, has outfitted the trio in hats historically worn only by male Diné warriors. Her own experience competing in the traditional men’s category at powwows—the liberation she feels, the bullying she encounters—is the subject of another piece here, the Ojibwe filmmaker Marcella Ernest’s dreamlike documentary collage “Because of Who I Am.” The film alternates on a monitor with two hypnotic animations by the Anishinaabe-Métis digital visionary Elizabeth LaPensée, who treats ancestral imagery of the natural world with an eco-poetic futurism. Nearby, an exquisite miniature fringed-leather tipi by Sheldon Raymore, an artist from the Cheyenne River Sioux Nation, memorializes “two-spirit” people of fluid gender. If the show, which was curated by Elizabeth S. Hawley with an eye for beauty and a heart for politics, has a rallying cry, it’s supplied by a lively poster from the Diné artist Demian DinéYazhi’ and R.I.S.E. (Radical Indigenous Survivance & Empowerment): “Decolonize Feminism.”

— *Andrea K. Scott*