

Perhaps because when I was in the public grade school Native American history was not taught and because my heroes were European men, discoverers of "new and uncharted lands" I wanted to grow up to be an adventurer landing on virgin lands. Perhaps, no in fact I know that's why I have an insatiable appetite for Native American history. My heroes have changed, they are now Native people who defended the shores of the "New World", my heroes are the message carriers who kept the original nations of the Americas informed, my heroes are my ancestors who fought so that I may be born. With a strong desire to emulate my heroes I believe myself to be in the tradition of the message carriers. Native American history is the core of my artistic communication, translating "artistic" messages that concern the Native communities where I live or where I travel.

Throughout time the native people of the western hemisphere have utilized message carriers for different reasons, messages of rebellion, harvest, disaster, celebration, warnings or even political messages effected the community. The message carrier was not always human, elders have repeated stories of when the animals spoke directly to the native people but now the animals communicate messages in their actions and speak only to a few. Dreams carried messages, the earth's movement, the moon and the fire flies.

As the times change so does the transmittal and reception of message, I have chosen an artistic approach utilizing the computer, photography and the video camera as my primary language. I then create dialogue that addresses the imbalance of power and the questionable actions of progress as related to earth and to the original Native people of the Americas. The politics that the Native people must deal with are at most times unfair and are unknown from community to community. My chosen responsibility is to awaken the mind to concerns that involve the native community and transmit messages from community to community.

The national and local evening news and newspapers do not print or broadcast the valid political concerns that need to be addressed, Native American religious freedom, land rights, strip mining, fishing rights, toxic dumping on Native lands sovereignty and Public Law 101-664 (requiring blood quantum to be recognized as a native American artist) these are but a few of the political concerns of Native American and each concern is but the tip of a mountain. Once can find limited information in alternative media sources (Native newspapers) but those resources are not always available.

For myself as an artist it would be impossible to do art for arts sake, especially with all the political concerns of my people, I prefer to take the path of the message carrier, the materials I use to convey my message are not traditional in the sense of the days gone by, that by no means invalidates my messages, my friend Chuna McIntrye said to me "A live culture is always evolving, a dead culture does not change." I agree fully with Chuna, my culture is very much alive and I will use any media necessary to be a message carrier for my people.