



HOWELL GALLERY

DOLORES PURDY

Dolores is a member of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma located near Binger, Oklahoma. She also has Winnebago, German and Swedish ancestry. Her father was career Air Force and relocation became a big part of her childhood as well. However, a constant in her life was time spent with her family in Oklahoma. She remembers listening to many stories passed down and draws on those historical stories for inspiration for her art.

As a trained watercolorist it was her discovery of ledger art, and her immersion in its history, that found Dolores breaking gender barriers in this usually male-dominated genre. Nearly two decades ago, she began her research and found herself picking up color pencils and old ledger paper to bring a woman's perspective to this male dominated art form commonly called "Warrior Art" or "Ledger Art". Dolores's work veers far from the usual imagery typically seen in most contemporary ledger art. The images can be humorous or serious while immersed in Native American heritage, iconography and pop-culture. Peter Maxx and the psychedelic pop-art movement has been an influence in her work as well as the art deco movement and Japanese textiles. Her imagery may represent bison hunters riding past colorful tipis, or bright Cadillacs racing across the page. Tongue-in-cheek humor, bright colors and vivid whimsical imagery is her way to stand out from the other ledger artists as well as honoring the ancestors.

She frequently presents her research and work at various universities and institutions. She is featured in a book titled *Women and Ledger art* written by Dr. Richard Pearce and published by the University of Arizona press.

Dolores is a boundary breaking artist who combines contemporary ideas with historical significance while maintaining cultural influences – Bryant Nagel Gallery

Artist statement – *"Happy Art makes a Happy Home"*



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Markets and Art Shows

- Santa Fe Indian Market – Santa Fe, NM 2001-2020

Professional Organizations

- SWAIA Standards Committee Member – Santa Fe, NM – 2009 – 2013
- Lawrence Indian Art Show Executive Committee – Lawrence, KS – 2001-2007

Major Exhibitions

- Desert Caballeros Western Museum – Wickenburg, AZ – COWGIRLUP! - March 2024 (Best of Show 2D Under Glass)
- National Park Service, Ft. Marion Prison – St. Augustine, FL – November 2023
- National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum – Oklahoma City, OK – Small Works Great Wonders – November 2023
- Raven Makes Gallery – Sisters, OR – September 2023
- Coeur d'Alene Galleries – Miniatures by the Lake – 2023
- Texas Tech University, Lubbock TX – Layered Voices Group Show, February-July, 2020
- Amangiri Resort, Canyon City UT- Solo Show - 2019
- Bryant Nagel Gallery, Sedona, AZ - Solo Show - 2019
- Dickson College, Carlisle PA - Trout Gallery Art Museum – Re-Riding History - Group Show during international symposium of the closing of Carlisle Indian Boarding School - 2018
- UC San Diego – presentation – June 2018
- Kenosha Museum System, Kenosha, WI Re-Riding History – Group show - March – April 2017
- Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art - The Art of American Dance – Group show – October 2016 – January 2017
- UC San Diego - La Jolla - Group exhibit 2017
- Denver Art Museum – The Art of American Dance – Group show -July - October 2016
- Detroit Institute of Art – The Art of American Dance – Group show - March – June 2016
- Museum of the Great Plains, Lawton, OK - Re-Riding History – Group show - Summer 2016
- University of Buffalo Art Gallery, Buffalo NY - Re-Riding History – Group show - March – May 2016
- Morning Star Gallery – Santa Fe, NM - Solo show – August 2016



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- All My Relations Gallery, Minneapolis MN - Re-Riding History – Group show - December 2015-Feb 2016
- University of North Carolina Pembroke Re-Riding History – Group show - 2015
- Morning Star Gallery – Santa Fe, NM – Solo show - August 2015
- NMAI National Museum of American Indian – Solo Show and book signing - April 2014 • Beloit College - Wright Museum - -Beloit WI - Re-Riding History – Group show - 2014
- Ft Marion historical prison, St. Augustine, FL - Re-Riding History – Group show - 2014
- Smithsonian NMAI – Washington DC – Book signing - April 2014
- Morning Star Gallery – Santa Fe, NM – Solo show - August 2014
- Paris Gibson Square Museum - Great Falls MT – Group show - 2014
- Morning Star Gallery show – Santa Fe – August 2013
- The Santa Fe Symphony – Painted Violins – group show – June 2012
- William and Mary College – Williamsburg VA – Group show - November-January 2011-12
- Morning Star gallery show – Santa Fe – August 2012
- Red Cloud Indian Art Gallery – St. Petersburg FL – Gallery Show Dec 5, 6, 2006
- Weedon Island Museum 2 person show/sale – Weedon Island, Florida – October - November, 2006
- National Museum of American Indian (Smithsonian) – Washington DC – Visiting Artist and craft demonstrator – June 2-4, 2006
- Bear Creek Gallery – Indianapolis IN – Solo Gallery Show May 6, 7, 2006
- Caddo Heritage Museum-A Loving Struggle- Works by Contemporary Caddo Artists April '05 – January '06
- Singing Water Gallery Pre-Indian Market Show – Santa Clara Reservation, NM, 2003
- Emporia Arts Council – Solo exhibition – Emporia, KS, 2003
- Topeka Arts Council – Solo exhibition – Topeka, KS, 2002
- Lawrence Public Library – Solo exhibition – Lawrence, KS, 2002
- Highland Community College – Solo exhibition - Highland, KS, 1999

Awards and Ribbons

Best of Show 2-D Under Glass (COWGIRLUP! 2024); Santa Fe Indian Market; Eiteljorg Indian Market; Heard Indian Fair; Cherokee Indian Market; Lawrence Art Show; Tesoro Foundation Indian Market; Native Treasures Art Show and Indigenous Peoples Market.



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Private and Public Collections

- Many wonderful collectors and buyers all over the world including Susan Sarandon and Christopher Plummer
- Smithsonian museum of American History – Washington DC
- Brown University – Haffeneffer Museum – Providence, RI
- US San Diego – La Jolla, CA
- National Museum of the American Indian - Washington DC
- The White House – Washington DC
- College of William and Mary – Muscarelle Museum - Williamsburg VA
- University of Minnesota – Tweed Museum - Duluth MN
- MIAC – Museum of Indian Arts and Culture – Santa Fe, New Mexico
- Caddo Heritage Museum – Caddo Nation Tribal Complex – Binger, Oklahoma
- Sprint Nextel Art Collection – Overland Park, Kansas
- Kansas Historical Society – Topeka, Kansas
- Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art – Kansas City MO
- Dartmouth - Hood Museum – Hanover, NH
- Caddo Mounds State park – Alto, TX
- Smithsonian Museum of American History – Washington DC

Presentations

- Museum of Native American History – Bentonville, AR – Zoom Presentation 2021
- Tulsa Community College – Zoom Presentation June 2020
- UC San Diego – La Jolla, CA – presentation June 2018
- Haffeneffer Museum – Brown University, Providence RI –Women and Ledger Art Presentation with Dr. Richard Pearce and Dr. Barbara Hale April 2015
- Tweed Museum – University of Minnesota, Duluth – The “History of Ledger art” presentation October 2014
- Museum of Indian Arts and Culture – Santa Fe, NM – “Women and Ledger Art” panel presentation August 2013
- Museum of Indian Arts and Culture – Santa Fe, NM – History of Ledger Art presentation April 2013
- William and Mary College - Presentation of Ledger art and speech in association with curated show of Kiowa 5 exhibit - November 2011
- Kansas Museum of History - History of Ledger Art presentation January 29, 2011 Publications
- Cowboys and Indians - New accounts on old paper – August 2017
- Pasatiempo - Interview - August 2016



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- Indian Country Today “This is not your Great-Great-Great Grandfathers Ledger Art” – November 25, 2014
- Pasatiempo “Women and Ledger Art” August 10, 2013
- First American Art Magazine – Summer 2013
- Women and Ledger Art by Dr. Richard Pearce, Ph.D, Bristol, RI, published by University of Arizona Press released spring 2013
- Native Peoples Magazine – “Between the Lines” July/Aug 2012

- Pasatiempo - My work was featured in August 20, 2010 issue.
- Native Peoples Magazine “Top 5 Ledger Artists” – August 2011
- Native Peoples Magazine “Notable Doll Makers” – December 2008
- Native Peoples Magazine “Notable American Indian Mask Makers” – July/Aug 2007
- 2007 Native American Literature Symposium – Saginaw Casino – Michigan – Subject of Presentation “Women and Ledger Art 2” by Dr. Richard Pearce – March 8 - 10, 2007
- Plains Indian Museum Seminar – Buffalo Bill Historical Center - Wyoming - Subject of Presentation “Women and Ledger Art” presented by Dr. Richard Pearce - October 5-8, 2006
- Southwest Art Magazine “Studio 2005 A Guide to Art and Artists” – January 2005
- Southwest Art Magazine “Starting your collection for under \$5,000” – August 2004
- Topeka Capital Journal (newspaper): May 30, 1999; March 27, 2003

Publications

- Southwest Art Magazine – *Breaking Boundaries* – Dec. 23/Jan. 24
- Western Art Collector – *Accessible Art* – September 2023
- Western Art Collector – *State of the Art – New Mexico* – April 2023
- Native American Art Magazine – *Standard Keeper* – August 2022
- Native American Art Magazine – *Standard Keeper* – August 2021
- Native American Art Magazine – *The Pencil is the Key* – Dec 2019/Jan 2020

Catalogs

- 2006-2009 prints of ‘Indian Ponies’ in the Pendelton Woolen Mills home catalogs

Education

- IAIA – Institute of American Indian Arts
- Washburn University
- Topeka West High School