

Howlak Tichum

Apolonia Susana Santos
September 30, 1954 -
November 17, 2006



Apolonia Susana Santos

Apolonia Susana Santos, known to many by several names, stepped from this world to the next in the wee hours of the morning on Friday, November 17, 2006. Susana was surrounded by many members of her family and her loved ones.

A member of the Tygh Band and Yakama Nation, her ancestral homelands are located along the Deschutes River at Tlxni (Falls of a Woman's Hair) also called Shears Bridge. She held great pride in her traditional fishing family and encouraged all who fished to respect the river and the salmon. She was an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

An accomplished artist for 30 years, Susana worked in several mediums including: large scale paintings, sculpture, silkscreen, graphic design, ceramics, photography and poetry writing.

Her work has appeared in 26 gallery exhibitions, and three traveling exhibitions including Artistas Indigenas U.S. Tour in Leningrad and Moscow, Russia; the Pacific Northwest Lewis and Clark Traveling Exhibition; and the 'Honor the Earth' Indigenous Peoples Tour. She participated yearly in the Tribal Art Show at the Museum at Warm Springs.

For over 20 years, Santos has

been an active organizer of environmental summits and cultural events. These public and intertribal events were educational and civic responses to legislation on indigenous peoples' and broader civil liberties protections. Santos worked as a Green Peace Fellow on national fisheries legislation and as a public education campaigner.

Susana established the Sacred Earth Coalition in the late 1980s. Her mission was to bring together Native and non-Native activists and artists to work for the protection of the Mt. Hood areas from destination resort development and the logging of Enola Hill.

Together with the Coalition, she established 'Culture Shock Gallery' to showcase the work of Native artists, women and

other disenfranchised groups.

After receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from the Oregon College of Art and Craft in Portland, Susana returned to the reservation to try to help her community.

And help she did. Santos established the Kah-Nee-Ta Gallery of Art at the High Desert Resort and Casino encouraging local artists to not only present their work in this public forum but also to stretch and grow artistically. She established a Native youth summer arts program coordinated with the Oregon College of Art and Craft for Warm Springs youth to study in Portland. This program has grown to include Native youth in Portland and other Oregon Tribes.

As art and cultural liaison for the Warm Springs tribe, Susana authored "Tribal Initiatives" that include her vision for an Artists Village Complex with artist painting and printmaking studios, sound, film and video studios and an Indigenous Medicine Lodge. Her vision also includes a healing symposium and gathering of healers to take place at Kah-Nee-Ta in 2007. She has inspired many people in Warm Springs and throughout the Northwest to come together and complete these projects.

Santos' art work and writings appeared in several publications: 'We, the People' NYC 1987, Faces of a Reservation, Oregon Historical Society 1988,

Women Of Power Magazine, 1990 and The Indigenous Woman Magazine, 1995.

Her artistic awards include: 2006 Potlatch Fund Award for Native Arts,

2006 Community Spirit Award, First Peoples' Fund, Rapid City, South Dakota, 2004 Spirit of the Arts Award, The Museum at Warm Springs; 1982

Timberline Purchase Award - The Museum at Warm Springs; circa 1980, second place award - UNESCO Visitation, University of California Davis, Calif.

Susana attended the San Francisco Art Institute (1979-82), and earned a Bachelor of Fine Art's Degree (BFA) from the Oregon College of Art and Craft in Portland, Oregon (1998-2001).

Apolonia Susana leaves a large family and hundreds of friends who loved and respected her. Her generosity of heart and spirit touched everyone she met. As an artist, activist, community leader and loving friend, she wove these parts of herself into a remarkable woman who always thought of her People and family first. From her signature hats and contagious giggle to her Warrior like determination, she leaves us all with a call to action.

Susana wrote of her art, her illness and her hope for the future generations...

"I create art in an effort to manifest and explore the human spirit and to heal the 'wounded spirits' of our people. To seek higher vision is an ancient way to manifest our art through spiritual quests, to understand natural phenomena and the animal world. I only hope that my art serves to depict strong images of Nature, Women and our Men, in order to recapture memory. Perhaps when we remember our clan families, our relationship to Mother Earth and to each other; our strength, art and cultural attributes will, in time, regenerate.

"I am just boiling inside. I want to explode. I have to tell these stories in my paintings. As an artist, I have to take responsibility to rid myself of this pain, and the impact on the people who are seeing it. I don't always live in this world. I live in the

other world. That is why I paint. I am trying to document history, document us. To document we are alive... How you live and conduct your life is a part of the solution. Only when men start to respect women is it going to happen. I want to see a strong land base back, a living band of people. I won't settle for anything else in my lifetime... You can't make compromises anymore. You can't settle for less."

Her family and loved ones include: mother Lena Teewee Santos, sister Juanita Villa and her husband Gary Villa, sister Irene Jimenez and her fiancé David Felver, and sister Theresa Howe; brother Rueben Santos and his wife Paula; brother Rick Santos and wife Sue; brother Albert Santos and wife Brenda. Nieces: Donetta Smith Squimphen, Rachel Santos, Alyssa Santos, Janelle Santos, and Ashley Jimenez. Nephews: Buddy Denny, Loren Denny, Richie Denny, Gary Villa, Jr., Aaron Vasquez, Bobby Howe, Carl Howe and John Howe, Donovan Santos and wife Makoni, Chip Santos, Brandon Santos, Ian Santos and Kierin Santos, Albert Santos Jr. and wife Jennifer, Joel Santos and Karla Kalama, Issaic Santos and Anthony Santos, and her Life Partner Cheri Hyde.

Great nieces and nephews: Kiara Kalama-Santos, Alyia Vasquez, Angie Stacona and Rachel Denny; James Santos, Scout Santos, Ryan Denny and Sean Denny. And numerous great-great nieces and nephews.

Other members of Susana's family who have gone before her are Carlos Santos, Margie Dansuka Smith, Michael Santos, Eligio Santos, Donovan Burns and Grandmother Mabel Eyle (Taktwipum).

Births

Hunter Dean Bearsford-Foltz

Joseph Foltz and Kaleja Mae Castilleja are pleased to announce the birth of their son Hunter Dean Bearsford-Foltz, born November 22, 2006. Hunter joins brother Jermaine.

The maternal grandparents are Julie Seelatsee and Lee Arquette, and Jose Castilleja. The paternal grandparents are Esther George and Richard Garcia-Foltz.

Toby Ryan Bowden

Bryce Bowden and Heather Gossling of Culver are pleased to announce their son Toby Ryan Bowden, born November 26.

Mathias Owen-Jay Martin

Gregory Martin and Madeline Jim of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their son Mathias Owen-Jay Martin, born November 20, 2006.

The father's parents are Herman Martin and Shirley Martin of Fort Wingate, New Mexico.

The mother's parents are Barbara and Bruce Jim of Warm Springs.

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