

Artist mentor project to make traditional saddle

Aurolyn Stwyer has two fields of expertise: business and art.

Ms. Stwyer is the owner of the Red Skye Trading Post at the Plaza. She has a Masters of Business Administration in Strategic Management from University of Minnesota, and a Bachelors in Accounting from Marylhurst University.

Meanwhile, she creates traditional beadwork and paintings. She's been an artist for many years, and now has the chance to pass on her insights and knowledge—some learned from her grandmother—to future generations.

The opportunity comes through the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation. One program of the foundation is the Mentor Artist Fellowship Award.

For 2018 the foundation made just eight mentorship awards across Indian Country in the Pacific Northwest, Southwest and Upper Midwest regions.

Ms. Stwyer is one of the recipients. She was chosen from the more than 100 applicants. The winners were named by a national peer review panel of specialists in Native Contemporary and Native Traditional Arts.

This fellowship recognizes established American Indian artists who wish to mentor an emerging Native artist. The apprenticeship is for one year, and the mentor selects his or her own emerging artist.

In addition to a \$30,000 monetary award, the foundation supports program participants in developing their lesson plans and mentorship goals. Ms. Stwyer already has experience in lesson planning, as she is the co-author of the Indianpreneurship curriculum of the Our Native American Business Network, or ONABEN.

In the fellowship program each mentor and apprentice will also attend a two-day training and program kick-off in Minneapolis.

The fellowships will culminate in a joint mentor-apprentice art project, demonstrating the power of mentoring to promote Native arts and cultural revitalization and perpetuation. (See the artist's statement at right).

With Ms. Stwyer, of Celilo,



Aurolyn Stwyer



Example of Ms. Stwyer's work: *The Proposal*, painting on hide (above). And beaded bag at left. Courtesy photos

Wasco and Warm Springs heritage, the Traditional Arts mentorship fellowships go to:

Bryan Akipa, Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, flute carving, South Dakota.

Lily Hope, Tlingit, weaving, Alaska.

Lisa Telford, Haida, weaving, Washington.

Patrick William Kruse, Red Cliff Band of Superior Chippewa Indians, descendant of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, birch bark basket making, Minnesota.

The Contemporary Visual Arts mentors are:

Jason Garcia, Santa Clara Pueblo Tewa, printmaking, New Mexico.

Kathleen Carlo Kendall, Koyukon Athabaskan, carving, Alaska.

Will Wilson, citizen of the Navajo Nation, photography, New Mexico.

The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation Mentor Artist Fellowship is supported by individual donors and regional funders committed to continuing Native arts and cultures. The foundation is grateful to Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies; and to the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation for supporting the Oregon Mentor Artist Fellow.

The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation's mission is to promote the revitalization, appreciation and perpetuation of American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian arts and cultures

Statement by the artist

This is such an honor. I want to thank the Museum at Warm Springs executive director Carol Leone for her support.

I now have a one-year project to make the Plateau traditional horse saddle (two horns), and the fully beaded trappings for the horse.

My apprentice is Joie Simtustus, the mother of Miss Warm Springs. The horse regalia will ultimately belong to Thyrecia.

We will have help from other family members for this major project.

It is unfortunate that our Plateau traditional saddle has become a dying art, and I would like to teach the next generation how to make one.

We will attend a meeting at

St. Paul, Minnesota in a few weeks to meet with other artists, as well as meet other art funders.

My contract has a requirement for me and Joie to give monthly progress reports, along with updates on our Facebook page.

We're interested in working with the Museum of Warm Springs staff for the 2019 schedule, to let our community know about this opportunity to preserve our tradition, the making of the Plateau traditional saddle.

We also have an active Warm Springs Artisans Cooperative, Twananawit, a non-profit, with the Warm Springs Community Action Team.

Aurolyn Stwyer

through grant making, convening and advocacy.

To date, the foundation has supported a total of 295 awards for Native artists, organi-

zations, and advocacy efforts in 32 states and the District of Columbia. For more see: nativeartsandcultures.org

Navajo painter visiting region

Navajo painter Jason Parrish will be in Sisters for the Art Stroll this weekend, April 27-29.

Mr. Parrish's works were recently juried into the internationally acclaimed Drawing and Watercolor Gala of the Grand Palais in Paris, France.

The artist was raised on a ranch in the heart of the Navajo Nation. He is fluent in English, Navajo and French.

Two of the works shown in Paris will be on display for this show in Oregon.

Jason became interested in the world when he began reading his grandmother's encyclopedias, even before entering grade school.

He eventually graduated from the University of New Mexico with a degree in History.



Ceremonial Run by Jason Parrish.

Eight years ago, while working at the homestead ranch and as a bank manager in Gallup, Jason began painting as a meditative relaxation exercise.

His paintings demonstrate images of the Navajo, their livestock, plants, and activities in exacting outlines, creating spaces that he then fills with pure color tones.

The scenes in his works are ultra contemporary, yet they are without abstraction or ambiguity.

There will be an artist reception this Friday, April 27, from 4 -7 p.m. at the Raven Makes Gallery, 182 E. Hood Ave., Sisters.

Jason will then give a presentation on Navajo origins at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

All events hosted by the Raven Makes Gallery.

Heart of Oregon Youth Corps recruiting for summer workers

Young people 15-18 years of age can now apply for the Central Oregon Youth Conservation Corps.

This is an opportunity for youth to gain job skills, learn about natural resources, im-

prove public lands and earn money this summer.

The program runs from June 25 through August 16.

Youth will work nine hours a day Monday through Thursday.

Crews meet daily all around

Central Oregon including Warm Springs and Madras.

Applications must be received by May 1, and are available online at:

heartforeregon.org

Warm Springs Culture and Heritage Language is looking for volunteers to help chaperone, coach, judge and assist at the 2018 Language Bowl on May 24 at the Wildhorse Resort. To learn more call Culture and Heritage at 541-553-3290.

A first for tribes at Supreme Court

With the U.S. Supreme Court taking up its third Indian law case of this term, tribes are welcoming what appears to be a historic development.

Tobi Merritt Edwards Young, a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation, will be serving as a clerk to Justice Neil Gorsuch. It's believed she is the first citizen of a tribe in such a role in the high court's 220-year-plus history.

The fact that Young was hired by Gorsuch, who is the newest member of the court, is also significant. Tribes across the nation were among the jurist's strongest supporters as he went through the confirmation process last year.

"As far as anyone President Trump could have nominated," said John EchoHawk, executive director of the Native American Rights Fund, "I don't think he could have come up with anybody much better than Judge Gorsuch."

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