



### **Between Two Worlds: Art by Melanie Yazzie**

A public exhibition at the Institute for Humanities Research, ASU

Curated by Dr. Sally L. Kitch

Co-Curated by John-Michael H. Warner

Melanie Yazzie is an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is from the Salt Water and Bitterwater Clans and a member of the Navajo Nation. The artist earned a BFA at Arizona State University (1990) and a MFA at the University of Colorado (1993). She taught at the Institute of American Indian Art, Boise State University and the University of Arizona, and was a visiting professor at Pont Avon School of Art in France. She is a printmaker, painter, and sculptor; she also works with world artists on collaborative print portfolios.

Yazzie is internationally exhibited; her art is collected by major institutions including the Australian National Gallery, TE WAKA TOI Maori Contemporary Arts, Rhodes University (South Africa), the Corcoran Museum (Washington, DC), the Institute of American Indian Arts, Anchorage Museum of History & Art, the Arizona State University Art Museum and Santa Fe Museum of Fine Arts. Yazzie's art is included in books by Lucy Lippard and Jackson Rushing. This mid-career exhibition includes 15 works including printmaking, sculpture and painting.

Yazzie's earliest creative exercises began at Westtown Boarding School, after moving from the Navajo Nation to Pennsylvania. As an Arizona State University fine arts student she began to reclaim Dine oral traditions and histories writing Images Inspired by

the Navajo Creation Myth and learning more about the American Southwest and Mexico's Far North as a double major in Spanish. At the University of Colorado she continued that intellectual and creative pursuit focusing on the remnants of colonization for global indigenous peoples. The artist's MFA exhibition and catalogue, Rites of Passage, explored the postcolonial conundrums for native peoples and personal notions of identity.

Yazzie continues making insightful works--and sometimes political and feminist art--that are light-hearted and simultaneously serious. Yazzie's art has been inspired by her travels to New Zealand, Siberia, Australia, Canada, Mexico, France and Japan, and often included collaborations on a global scale. She also develops works from her experiences as a child in Ganado, AZ, and from her everyday experiences living and working as an artist today. Finally, Yazzie's works convey her feeling of living between two worlds.

**Related Events:**

**“Walking, Skipping & Creating: Art by a Contemporary Navajo/Dine Woman” A public presentation by the artist on Thursday March 27, 3-5pm, Social Sciences Room 109.**

*The works of art in this exhibition were loaned from private collections including the Glenn Green Gallery, the Bluejacket Family Collection, Mr. Hayward Simoneaux and Mr. John-Michael Warner. The Arizona State University Art Museum print collection includes Melanie Yazzie's woodblock print from 1985 titled Personalities (Cats).*

Link to Glenn Green Gallery: <http://www.glenngreengalleries.com/>

Link to Melanie Yazzie CU Boulder Profile: <http://www.colorado.edu/arts/2d/yazzie.html>